

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Woods wins  
duel at Doral,  
regains No. 1**

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Tiger Woods



**U. of Colo. president  
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NC State's Cedric

Simmons, left, and Wake Forest's Eric Williams

**Top four teams  
get Madness  
going early**

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TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

## Horror on Airport Road

**Shooting of journalist,  
agent took place on feared  
path out of Baghdad**

BY ALISSA J. RUBIN  
*Los Angeles Times*

BAGHDAD — The route runs through a broad and flat landscape, bare but for a few date palms rising tall and dignified and the occasional small bush. Except for the litter of plastic bottles and bags, the scene is almost pastoral, peaceful.

It hardly seems the place where people could hide and detonate bombs or jump out and ambush vehicles. But this is Baghdad's Airport Road, six miles paved with dread.

It was on this road that U.S. soldiers opened fire Friday night on the car carrying Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, wounding her and killing Nicola Calipari, the Italian intelligence agent who had negotiated her release from Sunni insurgents.

SEE ROAD ON PAGE 4



AP

U.S. servicemembers in military vehicles man a checkpoint Saturday on Airport Road, the route leading to Baghdad International Airport. American troops on Friday fired on the car rushing Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena to the airport after a month in captivity. Sgrena was wounded and Nicola Calipari, the Italian intelligence officer who helped negotiate her release, was killed.



Giuliana Sgrena



Nicola Calipari

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■ **Funeral held for agent** Page 11

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## NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Judge's family murders:** The parents of white supremacist Matthew Hale, looking forward to visiting their imprisoned son this week, said they don't believe that any member of Hale's group is capable of murdering a federal judge's husband and mother.

In separate telephone interviews, Evelyn Hutcheson and Russell Hale said Sunday they are worried authorities will cancel their visits to their son, who is awaiting sentencing next month for soliciting an FBI informant to kill Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkowitz in Chicago.

Russell Hale said two FBI agents questioned him Friday for 15 or 20 minutes, asking if he had any idea who might have killed Judge Lefkowitz's husband — attorney Michael Lefkowitz, 64 — and mother, Donna Humphrey, 89, who had lived in Denver. Matthew Hale has denied any involvement in the slayings, or of soliciting the judge's murder.

### World

**Iran nuclear program:** Iran confirmed on Monday that its Natanz uranium enrichment plant in central Iran is underground to protect its nuclear equipment from any possible airstrikes, but it insisted that was not a sign the program aims to produce weapons.

U.S. officials have said building nuclear facilities underground is inconsistent with Iran's claims that its nuclear intentions are peaceful.

Abolmohammadi, a nuclear affairs adviser to the Iranian foreign minister, said U.S. and Israeli threats to the program forced Iran to take precautions to protect its technology — including the design of centrifuges used to enrich uranium — even though, Iran says, the program aims only to produce electricity.

**Rabin assassin's request:** The Israeli Supreme Court on Monday rejected a request by Yitzhak Rabin's assassin to have conjugal visits with the woman he says he married by proxy.

Yigal Amir, who is serving a life term for the Nov. 4, 1995, killing of Rabin, had sought permission to have conjugal visits with Larisa Trimbolter.

The Supreme Court said that Amir has not abandoned his violent aims and is a role model for extremists. It also said it would be difficult to supervise such visits.

**Congo violence:** Militiamen and renegade soldiers have raped and beaten tens of thousands of women and young girls in eastern Congo, and nearly all the crimes have gone unpunished by the country's broken judicial system, an international human rights group said Monday.

Hundreds of new rapes are reported every week, but only 10 soldiers and militants have been convicted of rape in relatively lawless eastern Congo since the end of the country's devastating war in 2002, New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report.

**Pope's recovery:** Pope John Paul II is likely to be released from the hospital in the hope for Holy Week services that begin with Palm Sunday on March 20 and culminate with Easter, the Vatican said Monday.

The pope has suffered no complications since a Feb. 24 surgery to insert a tube in his windpipe and ease his second breathing crisis in a month, said papal spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls. But he said doctors have cautioned John Paul not to use his voice too much to ensure he makes a complete recovery.

**Balkan war crimes charges:** The former chief of staff of Yugoslavia's army flew to the Netherlands on Monday to surrender to a U.N. war crimes tribunal there.

Gen. Momčilo Perisic, who headed the Yugoslav army during the Balkan wars of the



**Pakistan rape verdict protest:** Pakistani women stage a rally Monday to support a rape victim in Multan, Pakistan. More than 3,000 women rallied in this eastern Pakistani city, demanding justice and protection for Mukhtar Mai, a 23-year-old teacher, whose alleged rapists were released by a court last week. Mai — who attended the rally — was allegedly gang raped in June 2002 by men from Mastoi clan, considered to be socially higher than her Gujar tribe in Meerwala. A court sentenced six men to death for Mai's rape. But an appeals court in Multan last Thursday overturned the conviction of five of the men, citing lack of evidence, and reduced the other man's sentence to life in prison. The demonstration ended peacefully.

1990s, was indicted last week by The Hague tribunal for his alleged role in atrocities committed by his troops in Croatia and Bosnia.

**West Bank violence:** Palestinian militants wounded two Israeli border policemen in a shooting attack on a military post near a West Bank shrine Monday, the latest attempt to disrupt a delicate cease-fire.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, reacting to the attack, said Jews would continue to live and pray in Hebron, endorsing the settler presence in the tense city.

Despite the violence, both sides said progress has been made on transferring West Bank cities to Palestinian security control.

**N. Korea nuke talks:** The top U.S. negotiator for the North Korea nuclear dispute will visit Washington and Tokyo this week to seek ways to lure Pyongyang back to the negotiating table, the U.S. Embassy said Monday.

Christopher Hill will meet Kenichiro Sasae, director-general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia-Oceania bureau, on Thursday, the embassy said. In Washington, Hill is expected to hold consultations on the six-party talks and give a speech before returning to South Korea.

**Bobby Fischer saga:** Chess legend Bobby Fischer has been granted an Icelandic passport and the right to reside there but has been refused permission to leave the detention center in Japan where he is being held pending deportation to the United States, his lawyers and supporters said Monday.

Fischer, who turns 62 on Wednesday, has been held by Japanese immigration authorities since being arrested in Tokyo in July while trying to board a plane to the Philippines, allegedly using an invalid U.S. passport.

Washington has sought Fischer, a chess champion, on charges of violating international sanctions against the former Yugoslavia by playing chess there in 1992.

**Taiwanese president shooting:** Investigators on Monday said the "most likely suspect" in the election-eve shooting that grazed the Taiwanese president's stomach was an unemployed man in his 50s who was depressed about the economy and committed suicide shortly after the attack.

Monday's announcement did little to satisfy some of the skeptics who believe the March 19, 2004, shooting was a conspiracy rigged by the president to gain sympathy and boost his chances of re-election.

Chen's investigator Hon You-yi told reporters that evidence linking the suspect, Chen Yi-shiung, to the shooting included video footage of the crime scene.

**Canada missile defense:** Prime Minister Paul Martin had initially indicated that Canada wanted to participate in the U.S. missile defense program, but later reversed his position, the U.S. ambassador said during an interview aired Sunday.

Ambassador Paul Cellucci said Martin had sent strong signals that Canada would take part in the program designed to protect North America from incoming missiles.

Martin announced in late February that Canada would not participate in the contentious missile defense program, which a majority of Canadians oppose, polls say.

### Business

**Justice Department v. Microsoft:** The Justice Department, which challenged Microsoft Corp. in courtrooms for nearly a decade over antitrust violations, will pay more than \$2 million each year to buy business software from Corel Corp., a leading Microsoft rival.

The new purchase agreement, announced Monday, makes the latest version of Corel's WordPerfect Office software available to more than 50,000 lawyers and other Justice employees.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# White House rejects claim that U.S. forces targeted journalist

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House on Monday said it was "absurd" for a former hostage in Iraq to charge that U.S. military forces may have deliberately targeted her car as she was being rushed to freedom.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the car carrying Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena was traveling on one of the most dangerous roads in Iraq, to the Baghdad airport, when it was fired upon. An Italian intelligence officer in the car was shot and killed.

Responding to Sgrena's statement that the car may have been deliberately targeted, McClellan



Sgrena

said. "It's absurd to make any such suggestion, that our men and women in uniform would deliberately target innocent civilians."

"That's just absurd," McClellan repeated.

He said the airport road "has been a place where suicide car bombers have launched attacks. It's been a place where regime elements have fired upon coalition forces. It is a dangerous road and it is a combat zone that our coalition forces are in."

Often, they have to make split-second decisions to protect their own security.

"And we regret this incident," McClellan said. "We are going to fully investigate what exactly occurred."

President Bush called Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on Friday to apologize and to promise a full investigation.

Sgrena has said it was possible her car was targeted deliberately because the United States opposes Iraq's policy of negotiating with kidnappers.



An injured man is carried into a hospital on Monday after insurgents launched a series of attacks in and around the city of Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. Those attacks, as well as a car bomb in Balad, left 31 people dead and dozens more wounded.

## Funeral held for Italian agent, Page 11

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,507 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,142 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 12 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths: Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,369 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,033 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Juan M. Solano, 32, Dallas, killed Friday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Mosul; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

## British rule out sabotage in Jan. 30 plane crash

LONDON — The likelihood that hostile fire downed a British transport plane on Jan. 30 in Iraq increased Monday when military officials ruled out sabotage and ended speculation the crash killed 10 people.

An interim report by the Royal Air Force board of inquiry excluded a range of possible explanations, including lightning, collision with another aircraft or cargo exploding in the crash of the Hercules C-130 transport north of Baghdad about a half-hour after polls closed in Iraq's landmark elections.

But the panel did not rule out the possibility that the Hercules, which was on an administrative flight between Baghdad and a U.S. air base at Balad, may have been shot down by guerrillas with a surface-to-air missile.

"There is a great deal of detailed evidence that has yet to be analyzed and a number of lines of inquiry that need further investigation," said a statement from the Ministry of Defense, adding that the inquiry "is not yet in a position to establish the cause of the crash."

On Feb. 9, Air Force Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, the deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, said he believed the British aircraft was downed by hostile action rather than by a mechanical problem. He had also suggested the possibility of sabotage.

From The Associated Press

# 31 Iraqis killed in series of attacks by insurgents

By TODD PITMAN

The Associated Press

BAQUBA — Guerrillas launched a series of attacks in Iraq on Monday that left 31 people dead and dozens wounded as the country took its first major step toward forming a government whose most crucial task will be dealing with the insurgency.

Bulgaria said one of its soldiers killed in Iraq on Friday was likely hit by friendly fire from coalition troops. The shooting came on the same day as U.S. troops fired on a car carrying Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, wounding her and killing an Italian intelligence officer who negotiated her release from insurgents.

Al-Qaida in Iraq purportedly claimed responsibility in an Internet statement for much of the bloodshed — violence in and around Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where 15 people died. Another car bomb killed 12 people in Balad, southeast of Baquba.

The Baquba assaults included a car bomb, three roadside bombs and small arms attacks three checkpoints, one of them just south of Baquba in Muradiyah, said police Col. Mudhafar al-Jubouri. U.S. Maj. Ed House said a suicide car bombing outside a police station killed nine people and wounded 17. The dead included the bomber, two police, three soldiers and three civilians.

In another attack near the city, a group of about 20 insurgents in five vehicles attacked an army checkpoint with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, killing five Iraqi soldiers. The troops fought back, killing one of the attackers. Nine people were wounded, House said.

Militants also fired a mortar near the blue-domed governor's office, but no one was hurt, said a spokesman for the U.S. 42nd Infantry Division, Maj. Richard Goldenberg.

Another car bomb exploded outside the home of Iraqi army Lt. Col. Mohammed Abdul Mutalel in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, killing 12 people and injuring 21 others, said the city's police chief, Ayad Ahmed. Hospital officials said most of the casualties were bystanders. Iraqi security forces are frequently targeted by insurgents.

In Baghdad, gunmen killed two police and wounded a third in a drive-by shooting in the eastern suburb of Sadr City, said Dr. Abdul Jabbar Solan, director of a hospital where the casualties were brought.

Two civilians were killed when a roadside bomb targeting a joint U.S.-Iraqi military convoy exploded in the west Baghdad neighborhood of Amiriyah. The blast missed the convoy, damaging two passing cars and wounding four people, including two girls, said 1st Lt. Ali Hussein Hamdani. Another roadside bomb exploded in a southeastern Baghdad suburb, wounding several people on a bus.

Meanwhile, saboteurs blasted a pipeline near Samarra, 60 miles northwest of the capital, that carries oil to a Baghdad refinery, said police Maj. Mohsin Mahmood.

A Polish soldier was wounded in the hand Monday when a bomb blew up next to his convoy north of Hilla in central Iraq, said Lt. Col. Zbigniew Staszko, spokesman for the Polish military.

The death Friday of Bulgarian Pvt. Gardi Gardev was likely caused by friendly fire from troops of the U.S.-led coalition, according to Bulgarian Defense Minister Nikolai Svinarov in Sofia.

Svinarov said Gardev was in a Bulgarian patrol that was approached by a civilian Iraqi car. The vehicle did not stop after the patrol gave a signal, and the servicemen fired warning shots in the air from the north. Shortly after that, the patrol came under "massive fire from the west," where a U.S. Army communications site was located about 150 yards away, Svinarov said.

A Polish military spokesman, Tech. Sgt. Patrick Murphy, said the commanding general in the region had appointed a commission to investigate.

In the latest in a wave of abductions, a Jordanian businessman was kidnapped in Iraq by captors demanding \$250,000 in ransom, Jordan's Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

More than 190 foreigners have been abducted in Iraq in the past year. At least 13 remain in the hands of their captors and more than 30 were killed. The rest were freed, some through the payment of ransom, or escaped.

# Security missions take GIs out into the night

## Darkness protects Forward Operating Base Gabe squads as they patrol Baqouba's streets

BY CHARLIE COON  
Stars and Stripes

The patrol rolled out of base late Sunday night and onto the dark streets of Baqouba. Its mission: to check security fences that were installed at a pair of bridges.

"To keep people from getting in under the bridge, planting [explosives] and blowing it up," said Staff Sgt. Douglas Lesh, one of the vehicle commanders.

Another goal was to confront and possibly detain anyone violating the curfew, which is in effect from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m.

"If we see people we would normally detain them and ask some questions," said Staff Sgt. Hugh Griffin of Bainbridge, Ga.

The soldiers of 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, based at Forward Operating Base Gabe on the eastern edge of Baqouba, conduct patrols such as this almost every night in this city of 300,000 about 40 miles northeast of Baghdad.

They are part of Task Force Liberty, a conglomerate of 20,000 soldiers stationed throughout north-central Iraq whose goal is to help build a functioning democracy in the wake of the U.S.-led toppling of Saddam Hussein in the spring of 2003.

Sunday night's patrol included three armoured convoys and two Bradley fighting vehicles. It traveled with lights off to make it more difficult for insurgents to attack the patrol.

The five vehicles and 20-plus soldiers had far too much firepower for an average band of insurgents to face using conventional means, but insurgents in Iraq have been using unconventional, hit-and-run tactics such as roadside bombs.

On this night, the moon was obscured by clouds, which made the streets darker and made it a little more difficult for the soldiers to see.

"I hate this road," Griffin said as he steered his Humvee onto a bumpy, pitch black stretch near the Diyala River, which runs through Baqouba.

At one point the patrol using its heat-sensing equipment detected a "hot spot" in a wooded area. It could have been a person, animal or weapons cache, the soldiers said.

The hot spot could also have been a video camera, they said, used by insurgents to hire out to videotape their attacks with improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, in order to collect a bounty.

But after dismounting and wading into the woods to investigate, the soldiers found no smoking embers of a fire that someone might have been using to keep warm in the chilly night air.

It turned out that one of the two bridges that were inspected had slipped off the fence that could be equipped by someone wanting to plant a bomb. Lesh said it would be reported up the chain of command to be fixed.



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Gabe check a bridge in Baqouba on Sunday night for security risks.

To finish their patrol, the soldiers drove down what they call Canal Street back to FOB Gabe, re-entering the base at 12:35 a.m., one hour after they had left it.

The battalion sends out patrols most nights, said 1st Lt. Patrick Heim of Phenix City, Ala., a platoon leader. Sometimes their objective is to search for a person or inspect a certain site in Baqouba, a city with a mixture of Sunni, Shiite and Kurdi-

sh residents.

On other nights, though, the patrols are simply looking for suspicious activity. They try to avoid sitting in one place for very long.

"During any extended period, the enemy could locate us and drop mortars," Heim said. "But overall, we've had very little direct contact."

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## Road: 'It is a battleground; ... without rules or certainties'

ROAD, FROM PAGE 1

Having reported from Iraq for much of the last two years, I was initially dismayed to hear that a fellow journalist having survived the unimaginable stress and fear of being a hostage was then the victim of an American military shooting. But when I learned the incident occurred on the airport road, it became, at one level, understandable.

Bad things happen on the airport road — all the time. Many people who travel it on a regular basis have a personal horror story, a moment when they thought, "this might be it." Everyone else has a friend who has had one.

Since the war, the airport road has not been any ordinary highway.

It is a battleground; a place without rules or certainties, a place where there are no guarantees of safety for civilians or soldiers of any nationality.

For the ordinary traveler, there are two hazards: the wary, short-fused American troops who have lost dozens of their comrades to roadside bombs and ambushes on the road, and the insurgents who target the U.S. military convoys that ply the route.

It is a road to be approached with caution, with a plan, with wariness of every man and every American convoy.

About five hours before Sgrema was shot, I was on the same road, traveling in the opposite direction from the airport into

Baghdad with what has become routine unease. Rather than looking at the scenery, I stared straight ahead and felt a faint nausea.

Most organizations whose employees must travel the route have rules for how to do it. Like most security measures in war zones, they are gospel until the day they don't work. Some people use armored vehicles and have chase cars with armed guards, believing that while they may be conspicuous, at least in an armored car they will survive if insurgents open fire.

Others who are wary that armored vehicles might attract the insurgents will only travel in old Iraqi cars.

No one is much about the reality that only the heaviest armor (the kind used by the military) can withstand a roadside bomb, and even then not all roadside bombs. Few civilian cars are out-fitted with that amount of armor.

I travel in an old Iraqi car, and dress in a black gown and head scarf so as not to attract attention. When a military convoy appears, my driver slows down and waits for it to get at least half a mile ahead before we pick up our pace again. If we get too close and insurgents open fire on the convoy, we fear we may get hit.

As the road slipped by on Friday, I was struck by the calm of

the scene, and yet aware of my suspicions. Were the three children playing in the scrub by the side of the road just in need of a playground, and had they been trained to step on a detonator as a U.S. convoy moves by? Was the dead goat stuffed with explosives? Could the quiet neighborhood with hardly a car in sight hide insurgents?

*It is a road to be approached with caution, with a plan, with wariness of every other car and every American convoy.*

"See, that's where there was an IED," said my driver, Ahmad, using the military's shorthand for improvised explosive device. "You can see the pit," he said gesturing to a crater.

He pointed to the charred shell of a car sitting a few feet off the shoulder.

"See that, that's a bomb car," he said.

"Last summer I was here, driving from the airport, and suddenly, 'Boom!' A Humvee ahead of us was hit. I said, 'It's OK, it's OK' and then everyone began shooting — the Americans, the Iraqis, over the head of the C-130 gesturing to the nearby neighborhood.

One of the mosques near the beginning of the road, Ibn Tami, is well known as an insurgent

center. When U.S. soldiers searched it, they found rocket-propelled grenades, ammunition and guns.

Further on is a neighborhood named Jihad and another named Furat, where former intelligence officers from the Saddam Hussein regime live.

"Very tough place," declared Ahmad.

Insurgents hide in the neighborhood and scurry out to lay bombs that can be detonated at a distance with cell phones or garage door openers. Sometimes they shoot from the rooftops of houses.

The military is up against a community that may not like the insurgents but is afraid to turn them in. An Iraqi friend said he has a brother-in-law who lives in Amariya and knows which houses were used by insurgents targeting the road.

"I know but I will never tell and he would find out and kill me," he said.

The Americans have tried to make it difficult for insurgents to operate along the road. They have chopped down palm trees and taken down fences that insurgents hid behind. They have put up observation cameras. They have handed out leaflets and warned people who live in the area not to collaborate with insurgents. But insurgents keep find-

ing new modes of attack.

On Friday, a military convoy sped by. We stopped, letting it go far ahead. Next we sighted two SUVs that looked like they might be carrying security contractors. Again we slowed, for fear that insurgents might target them.

Suddenly Ahmad sped up, barreling down the rough highway at nearly 80 mph. My worries about insurgents and skittish U.S. soldiers quickly turned to fear of a car accident as he honked to get cars to move out of the way.

He believed we were being followed. A burgundy car with three men in it was visible in our rear view mirror, speeding close behind us.

We couldn't tell if they were armed.

Finally, we lost them and slowed down. As we drew up to our hotel, we saw the car again.

It had been the chase car of another news organization. The misplaced suspicion would have been funny, if the situation had not been so dangerous.

The Italians were on the road at a far worse time. Although there are few attacks at night, there is also little visibility, and the U.S. military suspects every vehicle.

Like us, Sgrema must have been frightened of being on the road. But having just escaped from insurgents, I wonder if she ever thought she'd be mistaken for one of them?



# General: Taliban fighters switching sides

## U.S. commander says 30 midlevel insurgents have 'turned themselves in' this year

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Thirty midlevel Taliban have turned themselves in to coalition forces this year, a top U.S. commander said Monday, predicting more will follow when the Afghan government announces a reconciliation program for followers of the hardline militia.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the No. 2 U.S. commander in Afghanistan, did not identify the insurgents and said the coalition had no specific information on the whereabouts of top-level Taliban, including the

supreme leader of the ousted Islamist regime, Mullah Omar.

The 30 Taliban had "essentially turned themselves in" at coalition bases in the eastern province of Khost and the southern province of Kandahar during the past two months and had been handed over to Afghan authorities for reintegration into society.

None had been detained, and one was now serving as a policeman, Olson said.

Olson was addressing a news conference at the end of his one-year term as chief of operations for the 17,000 U.S. forces hunting Taliban and al-Qaida mili-

itants in Afghanistan.

Purported Taliban officials have rebuffed the U.S.-backed amnesty program — which is not open to the top echelon of the militia — and vowed to go on the offensive as the weather improves after a particularly harsh winter.

Olson said coalition forces had targeted cells of mid- and low-level Taliban insurgents. Militant attacks against them had declined over the past year, from 10-15 per week in the spring 2004, to around five attacks weekly now — although he said insurgents could step up activity in the coming spring.

"But it seems clear to us given the disjointed and uncoordinated effort that the Taliban has been able to launch, that ... [Mullah Omar] is not exercising effective command and control over Taliban operations in Afghanistan," Olson said.

After Osama bin Laden, Omar is one of the most wanted men by the United States. There has been no confirmed sighting of the militia leader since U.S.-backed forces toppled the Taliban in late 2001 for harboring the al-Qaida leader.

According to news reports over the weekend, three Taliban leaders who were arrested in Pakistan

in recent months were handed over to U.S. officials last week. They reportedly included the leader of a Taliban splinter faction involved in the abductions late last year of three U.N. election workers in the Afghan capital.

Olson confirmed that three Taliban leaders were "handed over in Pakistan." He said the three were not under coalition custody and that "we don't have the status of their current location." He did not name them.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Jafar Abbas Jilani, however, said, "We haven't handed over any new prisoners to the United States recently."

## 8 hurt at Kandahar protest

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Hundreds of people demonstrating against a spate of criminal kidnappings clashed with police and looted shops and hotels in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar on Monday. Eighteen were wounded, an official said.

Protesters also reportedly stoned a passing convoy of U.S.-led coalition vehicles, but the U.S. military said none of its personnel was injured.

Khalid Pashtun, spokesman for the Kandahar provincial governor, blamed "enemies of the government and the coalition" for stirring up what started as a peaceful protest. Three unidentified armed men were arrested and are being questioned, he said.

About 1,000 local people had gathered to demand authorities provide better security in the city after a series of kidnappings, including a 12-year-old boy who was killed last week by his abductors although relatives had paid a ransom.

Pashtun claimed outsiders infiltrated the protest, and then demonstrators smashed car windows, stoned and looted shops and hotels, and ransacked government offices, including one of the women's affairs ministry.

He claimed that coalition soldiers whose vehicles had been stoned opened fire in the air to ward off protesters — but in Kabul, a top U.S. commander, Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, said the coalition was neither the target of the protest nor involved in putting it down.

Pashtun said seven police, five security guards and five demonstrators were injured in the melee and by stone-throwing, and one boy suffered a broken leg when he was hit by a coalition vehicle.

Police, who also reportedly fired in the air, restored order after about three hours, and now the city is calm, he said.

U.S. forces hunting Taliban and al-Qaida militants have a base in Kandahar, the main city of southern Afghanistan.

A government statement issued late Monday in Kabul said high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Interior and National Directorate of Security had been sent to Kandahar to investigate the causes of the unrest.

The government would "take any necessary measures to ensure that local residents have faith in their law enforcement officials," it said.



More than 2,000 people demonstrated on Tuesday to condemn last week's suicide car attack in Hillah, Iraq, which left 125 people dead.

AP

## As insurgency's toll rises, Iraqis grow angry

BY SAMEER N. YACUB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — As more people lose loved ones to the relentless violence, Iraqis are becoming increasingly angry at insurgents, even staging public demonstrations condemning militants.

While it is impossible to precisely gauge public opinion, it is clear many Iraqis have grown tired of two years of insecurity, and some are directing their wrath at those behind the bombings and attacks.

"I demand that they be put in the zoo along with the other scavengers, because that is where they belong," said Basam Yassin, who lost his brother to an insurgent attack in Mosul. He spoke Wednesday after relatives of victims protested outside a police station in that northern city.

Iraq's majority Shiite Arabs and ethnic Kurds have long criticized the largely Sunni Arab insurgency, portraying the militants as terrorists, loyalists of the Saddam Hussein regime and foreign fighters.

But the insurgents are now also being criticized publicly by prominent Sunnis, including opponents of the U.S. presence.

"The real resistance should only target the occupiers, and no normal person should consider dozens of dead people to be some kind of collateral damage while you are trying to kill somebody else," cleric Ahmed Abdul-Ghafur told worshippers Friday at Um al-Qura, the main Sunni mosque in Baghdad. "Everybody should speak out against such inhumane acts."

**"No normal person should consider dozens of dead people to be some kind of collateral damage while you are trying to kill somebody else."**

Ahmed Abdul-Ghafur  
Sunnī cleric

The growing anger was underlined this week in Hillah, a predominantly Shiite Muslim city south of Baghdad where a suicide car bombing killed 125 people Monday — the deadliest single attack since Saddam's ouster.

It touched a nerve in Hillah. More than 2,000 people chanting "No to terrorism!" demonstrated Tuesday outside the clinic where the bomber drove into a crowd of

Iraqi police and army recruits, setting off an explosion that also killed civilians at a nearby market.

On Friday, hostility to the insurgency apparently boiled over into bloodshed in Wihda, 25 miles south of Baghdad. Townspeople attacked militants thought to be planning a raid on the town and killed seven, police Capt. Hamadi al-Zubaidy reported.

Anger against insurgents is being fed, in part, by a government television campaign. Last week, U.S.-financed Al-Iraqiya TV aired a series of reports showing men describing themselves as insurgents calmly talking about how they had beheaded dozens of people and raped women and girls before killing them.

"People are realizing that the canceled insurgents are not superheros. They are timid people who kill for money and they have nothing to do with jihad," said Karim Humadi, head of protesters in Iraq.

The anger over deaths caused by insurgents does not always translate into acceptance of U.S. troops, who are still widely blamed for the chaos in Iraq. And many people support the insurgents, arguing they are fighting a just war to rid the country of U.S.-led troops who invaded in 2003.

# Fighting to bring her boys home

## Mother lobbies DOD to prevent 3 sons from simultaneous tours in Iraq

BY AVIS THOMAS-LESTER  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — When Ann Swann's twin sons were deployed to Iraq with the Marine Corps Reserve last year, she fired off a letter to President Bush. Her eldest son already was serving there with the Army Reserve, she explained, and she wanted one of her boys brought home.

"This letter is from a concerned mother," wrote Swann, 53, principal of Glads Noun Spellman Elementary in Prince George's County, Md. "I request that if at all possible, you conference with me to discuss the reason that all three of my sons (my only family left) are serving in Iraq."

What Swann discovered since sending her letter in the fall has surprised her. The Department of Defense has no prohibition on sending every child in a family into combat — even in the same unit at the same location.

The only way to get her sons back early would be if one were killed, captured, maimed or missing.

Then the so-called Sullivan rule, named for the Iowa family who lost five sons on the USS Juneau after it was attacked in 1942, would apply. Swann could request that her remaining sons be excluded from combat or any duty that would expose them to hostile fire.

That's what John and Lori Witmer did when their daughter Michelle, 20, was killed in Iraq last year serving in the Wisconsin National Guard. Her sister Rachel, 25, who served with her in the 32nd Military Police Company, and her twin sister, Charity, 21, a medic, did not return to Iraq after their parents pleaded that they be allowed to remain state-side.

"Common sense would say that one hero per family should be enough," John Witmer of New Berlin, Wis., said in a telephone inter-

view. "That way, the brothers and sisters wouldn't have to be put in the position of feeling like they deserted their families if they went back or that they deserted their country if they stayed home."

Swann said she believes a policy should take effect before a parent loses any children.

"When you have men and women who are in the family tree who are deployed to war, there is a chance that a branch might break," said Swann, whose eldest son, Henry, a sergeant, returned to the family home in Glenn Dale two weeks ago after his deployment ended. "Taking all the children from families and putting them in harm's way could stunt the growth of those family trees and endanger those families."

She has persuaded Rep. Albert Wynn, D-Md., to take a look at the issue.

In an interview, Wynn said there should be a mechanism to keep all the siblings in a family from being deployed "into a war zone" if one of the children or a parent disagrees. He said he has asked his staff to investigate and believes a bill may be needed to open debate on the issue.

"I thought there was a general policy about that dating back to World War II, but now I realize that the rule only [applies] if one sibling has died," he said.

Military officials acknowledge that there probably are many families who have more than one child deployed, but they say they have no way of tracking them.

"Some siblings don't have the same name, and then you also get into half-siblings and step-siblings," said Staff Sgt. Christina Delat, a Marine spokeswoman. "I think that since there are so many ways to relate to someone, it would be almost impossible" to prevent them from being deployed simultaneously.



JAH CHIKWENDU, THE WASHINGTON POST/LATVP

Henry Swann says he and his two siblings did not want to be released from duty in Iraq, but that he "was really worried" about how it would affect his mother, Ann, if something were to happen to him and his brothers, who all were serving in a combat zone at the same time. Henry Swann returned home two weeks ago.

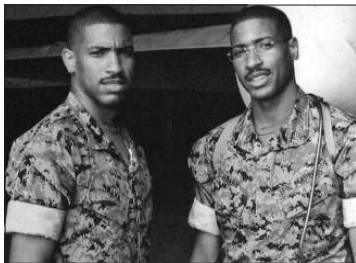
The deployment in June of Swann's twin sons Sgts. Bryan and Ryan Swann, 24, with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron from Andrews Air Force Base, Md., came a few months after their brother Henry's deployment with the 104th Quartermaster Company based in Annapolis, Md.

In addition to writing the White House, Swann wrote to Wynn and Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md. Wynn sent a letter on Swann's behalf to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld asking that he "strongly consider bringing at least one of her sons home."

Swann received a four-line response on White House stationery from Heidi Marquez, director of presidential correspondence. It said: "The White House is sending your inquiry to the Defense Department. This agency has the expertise to address your concerns. They will respond directly to you, as promptly as possible."

"I've never heard another word from them," Swann said.

Henry Swann said that he and his brothers did not want to be re-



Family photo/LATVP

The deployment of twins Ryan and Bryan Swann prompted their mother's appeals to the White House and lawmakers to have one son returned.

leased from duty but that he shared his mother's concern for the family. Ann Swann's mother, Mary Frances McDonald, 76, was killed during an attempted robbery at a flower shop in 2003 and

her father died a few months later.

"There had already been so much tragedy in our family," Henry Swann said. "I was really worried about what would happen with my mother if something happened to me and my brothers."

# U.S.-led forces bust fishing boat carrying \$30M in hashish

The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S.-led naval forces raided a fishing boat in the northern Arabian Sea carrying 2.6 tons of hashish valued at an estimated \$30 million, the U.S. military said Monday.

Sunday's seizure of the drugs and vessel, a traditional dhow named al-Zahidi, followed coordination between British and U.S. forces, the Bahrain-based U.S. 5th Fleet said in a press release.

**"Drugs are often very directly related to the means of getting money for terrorist organizations, so that is why we also track drug-smuggling dhows."**

British frigate HMS Grafton started tracking the dhow Saturday and contacted American guided-missile cruiser USS Gaudier which sent an SH-60B helicopter to intercept the vessel.

The exact location of the seizure was unclear, as was the nationality of the boat and crew. It was not known how many people

were detained from the dhow, on which was found 128 sealed packages containing a total of 2.6 million tons of hashish.

"Drugs are often very directly

related to the means of getting money for terrorist organizations, so that is why we also track drug-smuggling dhows," said German Rear Adm. Henning Hoops, commander of the multinational task force.

USS Bunker Hill deployed Dec. 6 from its San Diego home port and is part of Commander, Task Force 150 that oversees security operations around the Horn of Africa, the North Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman.

## IN THE STATES

## Supreme Court limits secrecy in tax cases

By HOPE YEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court eliminated some of the secrecy faced by Americans taking tax disputes to the U.S. Tax Court, ruling Monday that factual recommendations in the proceedings must be disclosed.

While the official opinions of the tax court are made public, people are not allowed to see recommendations by specially appointed judges who hold trials in cases involving more than \$50,000, and who also write detailed reports.

In a 7-2 decision, the court said that was wrong, finding it to be a violation of tax court rules. It noted that initial findings made by magistrate and bankruptcy judges in other proceedings are open.

"However efficient the Tax Court's practice may be, we find no warrant for it in the rules the Tax Court publishes," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote for the majority. In a dissent, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist said justices should defer to the Tax Court's interpretation of its own rules. He said while the Tax Court had released the fact reports for 40 years, a rules change in 1983 arguably allowed them to stop the practice.

In other decisions, the Supreme Court:

■ Voted 5-3 to limit federal judges' sentencing power, ruling that judges may examine only plea agreements or defendants' admissions regarding prior convictions, not police reports or other evidence, when tacking on prison time.

■ Ruled 8-1 that two Ohio prison inmates may file federal civil rights complaints in an effort to get parole hearings denied them by the state.

■ Agreed to consider whether Volvo Trucks North America Inc.'s wholesale pricing policies discriminated against an Arkansas truck retailer.

■ Said it will decide whether two Arizona miners may sue federal officials for personal injuries following a roof collapse at a copper mine that left them paralyzed.

■ Declined to consider whether a black truck driver, Tyrone Williams, who is accused in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants, was improperly singled out for a possible death sentence because of his race.

■ Declined to consider whether an employer can inquire about the immigration status of a group of Latina and Southeast Asian women who are suing the company for job discrimination.



Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., center, walks arm in arm with other members of Congress on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., on Sunday to mark the 40th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march. From left are Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif.; Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif.; Lewis; Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md.; Rep. Arthur Davis, D-Ala., and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

## 40 years later, congressman marks historic rights march

The Associated Press

SELMA, Ala. — Rep. John Lewis returned to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, 40 years after he braved Billy Clubs and tear gas in one of the grimmest, goriest spectacles of the civil rights movement.

"President Johnson signed that act, and it was written by the people of Selma," said Lewis, who was clubbed on the head during the "Bloody Sunday" attack on marchers by state troopers and sheriff's deputies on March 7, 1965. He was among 17 blacks hospitalized as that march was turned back while crossing the bridge.

Participants also included singer Harry Belafonte, who was at the demonstration 40 years ago, and Coretta Scott King, whose husband, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., led a second march two weeks later to the state capital. Police estimated the crowd at nearly 10,000. A re-enactment of the five-day march is planned this week, culminating with a rally at the Capitol on Saturday.

Certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act, such as the use of federal examiners and a requirement for Justice Department approval of election law changes, will be up for renewal by Congress in 2007.

## U. of Colorado president to resign amid scandals

## Professor's words, football team's actions plagued tenure

By JON SACHE

The Associated Press

DENVER — University of Colorado President Elizabeth Hoffman announced Monday that she is resigning amid a football recruiting scandal and a national controversy over an activist professor who compared victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to a notorious Nazi.

Hoffman, who has been president for five years, told the Board of Regents in a letter that her resignation is effective June 30 or whenever the board names a successor.

"It appears to me it is in the university's best interest that I remove the issue of my future from the debate so that nothing inhibits CU's ability to successfully create the bright future it so deserves," Hoffman wrote.

An independent commission reported last year that Colorado players used sex, alcohol and marijuana as recruiting tools.

And in February, administrators took the first steps toward a possible dismissal of professor Ward Churchill, who likened World Trade Center victims to Nazi Adolph Eichmann.

"I've taken my future off the table so to some extent I can focus my attention on issues that face the university and not on my personal future," Hoffman said in an interview.



University of Colorado President Elizabeth Hoffman, seen in this Feb. 25 photo, announced Monday that she is resigning amid a football recruiting scandal and a national controversy over an activist professor who had compared victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to a Nazi.

She cited the upcoming trial of a civil lawsuit that stemmed from the football recruiting scandal.

Regent Michael Carrigan declined to comment on her resignation.

At least nine women have said they were assaulted by Colorado football players or recruits since 1997.

Just last week, a grand jury said two female trainers alleged they were sexually assaulted by an assistant coach and that a "slush fund" was created with money from coach Gary Barnett's football camp, according to

a report leaked to the media.

The grand jury, which finished meeting Aug. 19, handed up a single indictment accusing a former football recruiting aide of soliciting a prostitute for himself and misusing a school-issued cell phone.

A review of Churchill's speeches and writings is being conducted to determine if the professor overstepped his boundaries of academic freedom and whether that should be grounds for dismissal.

The furor over Churchill erupted in January after he was invited to speak at Hamilton College in upstate New York. Campus officials discovered an essay and follow-up book in which he said the Sept. 11 attacks were a response to a history of American abuses abroad, particularly against indigenous peoples.

## Ill. tsunami victim's remains found

EVANSTON, Ill. — The remains of a 33-year-old Illinois man who died in the Asian tsunami have been found in Thailand, his family said.

Ben Abels was vacationing on the island of Phi Phi when his beachside bungalow was inundated with water Dec. 26. Abels had been missing since the disaster.

## Boeing ousts CEO over affair

CHICAGO — Boeing Co. abruptly forced out its president and chief executive officer, Harry Stonecipher, for what the company said Monday was a violation of the company's code of business conduct stemming from a relationship the married, 68-year-old Stonecipher had with a female Boeing executive.

The stunning ouster makes Stonecipher the second CEO to depart the Chicago-based airplane maker and defense contractor in disgrace in the past 15 months. His predecessor, Phil Condit, resigned Dec. 1, 2003, as a result of the defense contracting scandals.

## Physicist Bethe dies

ITHACA, N.Y. — Hans Bethe, one of the last of the giants of 20th-century physics, who played a pivotal role in designing the first atomic bomb and won a Nobel Prize for figuring out how the sun and other stars generate energy, died Sunday at 98.

During World War II, he was a key figure in the building of the first atomic bomb as head of the Manhattan Project's theoretical physics division at Los Alamos, N.M.

## Martha gets back to work

NEW YORK — After five months in prison, Martha Stewart is wasting little time smelling the roses. Stewart was expected Monday to report back to her company's corporate headquarters in Manhattan and get back to work.

She planned to meet with her employees at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. and was to address a staff diminished by layoffs in her absence, but also no doubt encouraged by a rising stock price.

From The Associated Press

# 11 of 13 small cars flunk institute's side-impact testing

By DEE-ANN DURBIN  
The Associated Press

**DETROIT** — The Dodge Neon, Ford Focus and Volkswagen's New Beetle are among the small cars that got the lowest safety rating in new side-impact crash tests performed by an independent, nonprofit organization.

Eleven of the 13 cars tested earned a "poor," the lowest of four ratings, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said. The Chevrolet Cobalt and the Toyota Corolla earned the second-highest rating of "acceptable," but only when they were tested with their optional side air bags. They earned "poor" ratings without the air bags.

Other vehicles that earned a "poor" rating were the Hyundai Elantra, Kia Spectra, Mazda 3, Mitsubishi Lancer, Nissan Sentra, Saturn Ion, Suzuki Forenza and Suzuki Aerio. The results were released Sunday.

The institute's test simulates a severe crash. A barrier designed to resemble the front of a pickup or sport utility vehicle hits the side of the vehicle at 31 mph. A "poor" rating means a

high chance of serious injury in a similar crash.

Four of the vehicles tested — the Elantra, New Beetle, Forenza and Spectra — have standard, head-protecting side air bags. But the institute's chief operating officer, Adrian Lund, said the cars had poor structure that failed to prevent injuries to the torso and pelvis.

Several of the vehicles offer optional side air bags, but the institute will only test those vehicles without side air bags unless the manufacturer provides a second vehicle with the option installed.

Toyota Motor Co. provided the Corolla with side air bags and General Motors Corp. provided the Cobalt and Saturn Ion. But

even when it was tested with its optional side air bags, the Ion got a "poor" rating because the institute said it didn't adequately protect the driver's lower body.

The institute was most critical of the Neon, saying the car performed so poorly that the driver likely wouldn't have survived the crash. DaimlerChrysler AG defended the Neon, saying it meets federal safety standards and its performance is similar to other small cars.

*The Chevrolet Cobalt and the Toyota Corolla earned the second-highest rating of "acceptable," but only when they were tested with their optional side air bags.*



The Dodge Neon, shown in this Insurance Institute for Highway Safety photo, was the most criticized of the 13 small cars tested by the nonprofit. Eleven of the cars that were entered in new side-impact crash tests received a rating of "poor."

## Sharpton proposes radio ban

**NEW YORK** — Rev. Al Sharpton said he will propose a 90-day ban on radio and television airplay for any performer who uses violence in their music to make a profit.

The activist and former presidential candidate plans to ask the Federal Communications Commission and major radio broadcasters around the country to support the ban.

Sharpton's announcement follows last week's shooting at the WQHT-FM studios that was suspected to be started by a feud between rappers 50 Cent and The Game.



Sharpton

From The Associated Press

## Study: Campaign increased Internet news site traffic

By ANICK JESDANUN  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Reliance on the Internet for political news during last year's U.S. presidential campaign grew sixfold from 1996, while newspaper influence dropped sharply, according to a study.

Eighteen percent of American adults cited the Internet as one of their two main sources of news about the presidential races, compared with 3 percent in 1996. The reliance on television grew slightly to 78 percent, up from 72 percent.

Meanwhile, the influence of newspa-

pers dropped to 39 percent last year, from 60 percent in 1996, according to the joint, telephone-based survey from the Pew Research Center for The People and the Press and the Pew Internet and American Life Project that was released Sunday.

Nonetheless, Americans who got campaign news over the Internet were more likely to visit sites of major news organizations such as CNN and The New York Times (43 percent) rather than Internet-only resources such as candidate Web sites and Web journals, known as blogs (24 percent).

Twenty-eight percent said they primar-

ily used news pages of America Online Inc., Yahoo Inc. and other online services, which carry dispatches from traditional news sources such as The Associated Press and Reuters.

"It's a channel difference not a substantive difference," said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet group and author of the study. "Newspaper executives probably now have to think of themselves less as newspaper people and more as content people."

Fifty-eight percent of political news users cited convenience as their main reason for using the Internet

From The Associated Press



A hazmat worker suits up to return to a tanker car in Salt Lake City that began leaking chemicals Sunday afternoon, but returned Monday after crews finished pumping out the last of the chemicals Monday.

# Utah officials concerned over tanker chemical leak

By LEON D'SOUZA  
The Associated Press

**SALT LAKE CITY** — Crews early Monday finished pumping toxic waste from a leaking rail tanker car that triggered the evacuation of 6,000 people, but they still don't know exactly what they're dealing with.

Early Monday, residents were back in their homes, the cleanup was under way and most of the closed highways nearby were about to be reopened.

The area downwind of the leak was evacuated Sunday because of fumes from the spill, Fire Chief Steve Foote said. Officials were angered that they could not pin down what was in the tank. The information they were given conflicted with their own observations.

The tanker car's manifest said it was sulfuric and hydrofluoric acids; the company told them it was hydrochloric, hydrofluoric, nitric and sulfuric acids. Late Sunday, the company corrected itself, saying the contents were phosphoric, acetic, sulfuric and

hydrofluoric acids, and ammonia — all at a concentration of only 10 percent.

"What's concerning to us is the concentration level," Foote said, saying the waste appeared to be of a much higher concentration.

The tanker car originally carried 13,000 gallons of nitric acid at 94 percent concentration from Kennecott Utah Copper — a mining, smelting, and refining company — to Darwin, Nev., Foote said. He said the tanker car, sublet to another company, was then loaded with the industrial waste — whatever it was — and the train arrived at the Roper Rail Yard in South Salt Lake shortly after 6 a.m.

It was supposed to be taken to Ohio, where the waste was to be solidified and buried, but the tanker was found to be leaking.

Officials spent all day trying to find out what was in the tanker from a company they first identified as Phillips Environmental but later called Philip Services.

"The rules are absolutely specific," about detailing contents being shipped, Foote said. "Somebody dropped the ball here."



# Man's pet reindeer is star attraction in Alaskan capital

BY RACHEL D'ORO  
The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Albert Whitehead likes to take his pet reindeer on a regular stroll through downtown Anchorage. The sight, which produces giggles and stares in Alaska's largest city, has endured for more than 40 years by a long line of reindeer, all females named Star.

"My, aren't you charming?" a passer-by gushed as the animal, named Star VI, snuffled the air in search of the homemade bread Whitehead carries in his pockets during their jaunts.

Besides Star's downtown excursions, she participates in parades, visits schools and pulls youngsters on sleds. In fact, all the Stars have been big on civic duty.

"That's not something you see every day," Russ Widener, of Syracuse, N.Y., said a few blocks away as he snapped a photograph then moved in for a closer look at the frisky 4-year-old reindeer.

Whitehead helped care for Star's predecessors, and he said the current reindeer is probably the friendliest of them all — having been raised exclusively by humans after being abandoned by

her mother at birth.

Star VI was born in April 2001 at a reindeer farm north of Anchorage. Her young mother never connected with the fawn, which was initially named Noel by the previous owner. Because of her tenuous beginning, Star is rather petite — standing 4½-feet tall, a half-foot shorter than average for her age.

A pet reindeer may raise a few eyebrows, but the tradition began in 1962 when Anchorage pioneers Oro and Ivan Stewart got the first Star from a Native reindeer herder. As with every subsequent Star, the reindeer had a little tuff of white on her forehead.

Whitehead, a young soldier stationed at Fort Richardson, had befriended the Stewarts by that time, sometimes helping out at their downtown camera shop.

He left the state, but returned a decade later with a family of his own. Whitehead also resumed his friendship with the Stewarts, which involved walking Star I — outings that are still vivid in the memory of Whitehead's son.

"Growing up with deer was really cool," said Bryan Whitehead, 35. "I don't know how it would be like not to have one."



Albert Whitehead walks his pet reindeer Star VI across the Park Strip in downtown Anchorage, Alaska. Whitehead, 64, who helped care for Star's predecessors, said the current reindeer is probably the friendliest of them all, having been raised exclusively by humans after being abandoned by her mother at birth.

**"That's not something you see every day."**

Russ Widener  
Syracuse, N.Y.



Astronaut George Zamka sits Thursday at NASA's neutral buoyancy lab in Houston. Zamka has been an astronaut for almost seven years, but is one of the 46 astronauts who have yet to fly in space.

## In the waiting line

A third of NASA's astronauts have never traveled to space, and some may have to wait another decade

BY PAM EASTON  
The Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — George Zamka has been an astronaut for almost seven years and he still hasn't made it to space. But he's far from alone.

Grounded for two years, a third of the nation's nearly 150 astronauts have never flown in space, and some wonder when they will.

"Part of being at NASA is very few people get to fly in space," Zamka said. "Everyone else gets their enjoyment by contributing to the space mission."

The last class of astronauts has already been warned that it's unclear whether any of them will fly during the shuttle era — which ends in five years. All face an uncertain future and development of the next-generation space vehicle could take until 2010.

"They knew very well that they arrived at the sunset of the shuttle and the dawn of the new vehicle and they may be exposed to the gap in between the two," Zamka said of the newest class of astronauts. "For the last classes, there has been an effort made to make sure they are informed as to what the way may be like. And they come anyway."

Forty-six of the nation's 142 astronauts have not flown in space; some of them are rookies, others have waited for years.

Zamka didn't think his wait



Astronaut Andy Thomas, left, works with astronaut Soichi Noguchi before a space walk training exercise in the neutral buoyancy lab at Johnson Space Center Oct. 1. Thomas is slated to fly his first space mission in May.

would be so long. He expects to be assigned to a flight in another two years and hopes to fly within the next four. By that time, he'll have waited a decade.

Zamka tries not to focus on it and says it only crosses his mind when he's idle.

"We are not stewing over here because we are not flying," he said. "We are all busy trying to get back to flying. We all turn ourselves to the task at hand and that is how we deal with it."

Shuttle missions have been halt-

ed since the Columbia accident two years ago that killed all seven crew members. May is the target for the next shuttle flight, but even that is a tentative date.

Virtually all astronauts are intimately involved in the shuttle improvements, which include the ability to make repairs in space.

"The focus is very heavily on the astronauts and the crew, because they are going to have to actually go out and do this," astronaut Pam Melroy said of the in-orbit repairs.

Almost everyone in the astronaut office is involved with return-to-flight in some way. The training, studying and additional work have been relentless, the astronauts say.

Those who aren't in a shuttle crew are assigned a variety of return-to-flight tasks and research on the development of a new space vehicle and President Bush's moon-to-Mars plan outlined last year.

NASA would like to get a few more flights out of its three aged shuttles — built on 30-year-old technology — before they are phased out in 2010.

Once the shuttles are retired, it could take until 2015 for NASA to have a new vehicle ready to go.

"People are not shirking that opportunity just because there is a wait in front of them," Zamka said. "This is a wonderful opportunity to be in the line or the window to fly in space at some time."

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# Study: Aspirin cuts stroke risk in women

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE  
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Middle-age women can cut their risk of strokes but not heart attacks by regularly taking low doses of aspirin, and the pills help prevent both problems in women 65 and older, a major study found.

The results are opposite what is known about aspirin in men, where its benefit for stroke is limited and its ability to prevent heart problems is legendary. Since women proportionately suffer more strokes and men more heart attacks, this is generally good news, specialists said.

Researchers also found that taking vitamin E did not good for

## Low doses not found to benefit heart, as seen in men

women of any age, confirming a study last fall that concluded supplements of this nutrient could even be harmful.

The new information comes from the Women's Health Study, the first rigorous, scientific test of whether long-term use of aspirin or vitamin E made a difference in cardiovascular risk in females.

Previous research has been almost exclusively in males. Findings were reported Monday at an American College of Cardiology meeting in Orlando. They also were being published online by the New England Journal of Medicine and will be in the March 31 print edition.

The study has "major public health implications," said Dr. Elizabeth Nabel, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which funded the research with the National Cancer Institute.

"In contrast to men, aspirin did not reduce the risk of nonfatal or fatal heart attacks in women of all ages but did so in women over age 65," she said.

The study was led by Julie Buring, Dr. Paul Ridker and others at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Many have been consultants to aspirin makers, but the companies

did not run the federally funded study. Bayer Healthcare supplied aspirin for it and the National Source Vitamin E Association supplied that nutrient.

In the study, 40,000 female health professionals 45 and older were randomly assigned to take either fake pills or 100 milligrams of aspirin — slightly more than the 81-milligram "baby aspirin" pills commonly sold — every other day.

After 10 years, aspirin users had a 17 percent lower risk of stroke, and a 24 percent lower risk of strokes caused by blood clots, owing, researchers believe,

to aspirin's well-known anti-clotting properties.

Women 65 and older got even more benefit. They were 30 percent less likely to have a stroke caused by a blood clot and 34 percent less likely to suffer a heart attack.

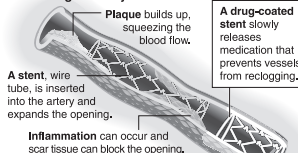
Aspirin's benefits were greatest for nonsmokers and former smokers, and didn't vary among women who did or did not use hormones after menopause.

The study "demonstrates the importance of studying medical therapies among women as well as men," Buring said. "We finally have the evidence base needed for women to make rational decisions about the use of aspirin in preventing cardiovascular disease."

## Drug-coated stents open possibilities

Tiny metal scaffolds that prop open arteries and are drug-coated has transformed heart treatment. Nearly nine out of 10 stents used in the United States now are drug-coated.

### Unblocking an artery with metal



Source: Food and Drug Administration

## Drug-coated stents could prevent bypass surgery

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE  
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — New research comparing rival brands of drug-coated, tiny mesh tubes called stents finds they are equally excellent at keeping heart arteries open, and that one may be better for diabetics.

These devices, which slowly leech medication into blood vessels to keep them from squeezing shut after procedures to remove blockages, have revolutionized heart care so much in the last few years that studies now are aimed at finding which ones work best for which patients — not whether they work at all.

They are vastly better than the plain old metal stents that were standard just a few years ago. So good on the new ones are so good that more patients are being successfully treated with them and avoiding a more drastic alternative — heart bypass surgery.

Two are on the market — Boston Scientific Corp.'s Taxus stent, and Cypher, made by Cordis Corp., a Johnson & Johnson company.

Natick, Mass.-based Boston Scientific Corp.'s Taxus stent was approved last year.

"Both devices have made remarkable progress" in treating

heart disease, said Dr. Gregg Stone, a cardiologist at Columbia University Medical Center, who was not involved in the comparison studies.

New studies on stents were presented Sunday at an American College of Cardiology conference in Orlando. They showed that benefits apparently last for years, and that even very big blockages in very small vessels — some nearly two inches long — can be fixed with such stents, sometimes using overlapping ones.

The devices work so well that when an older stent clogs, it's better to put a new drug-coated one inside it than to treat the problem with radiation as has been done in the past, one study found.

Competitors also are being developed that could help cut the price of these devices. One novel type even dissolves in the body once its job is done.

"It's looking very good," Dr. Gerald Fletcher, a Mayo Clinic cardiologist, said of the evidence for drug-coated stents. The benefit is going to be substantial in the long term."

Clogged arteries can cause a heart attack. One solution is open-heart bypass surgery, in which blood vessels from elsewhere in the body are used to create detours around blockages.

## South Beach Diet researchers help to develop school menus

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER  
The Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Nine-year-old Kelly Ferrer no longer gets the waffles, pancakes and sugar cereals that she loved eating for breakfast last year at Mill Creek Elementary School's cafeteria.

This year, instead, she is served whole wheat bread, lowfat cheese and fruit as part of a study by a research center founded by Dr. Arthur Agatston, the author of "The South Beach Diet."

The goal of the study at six schools in this Orlando suburb is to evaluate whether school cafeterias are capable of serving more nutritious ingredients, if kids will eat them and whether students' health improves from better eating.

The program underscores growing concerns across the nation about childhood obesity. The National Institutes of Health estimates that about one out of five U.S. children are obese, a problem that may lead to diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease.

"We're not putting the children on The South Beach Diet," said Danielle Hollar, deputy director of research at the Agatston Research Institute. "We're trying to provide healthier options for these children and in the long run we hope they learn to eat healthier and incorporate that into their daily living."

Although the 3,000 students involved in the study haven't been put on the low-carb diet per se, many of the diet's guiding principles have been incorporated into school menus.

White bread and white flour products have been stricken and replaced with whole-wheat products. White potatoes were replaced with sweet potatoes. French fries were abolished. Grilled chicken replaced breaded chicken. Fruits have taken the place of sweets for desserts.

Students at the beginning of the school year were weighed, their height measured and their blood pressure and pulse recorded. Those same measurements will be taken in April. The institute has paid for the \$10,000 extra cost.



Nine-year-old Kelly Ferrer sips her low fat chocolate milk during lunch at Mill Creek Elementary School in Kissimmee, Fla. The school is one of six taking part in a study by a research center founded by Dr. Arthur Agatston, the author of "The South Beach Diet."

"It was a little bit slow catching on but now the students seem to be enjoying the meals," said Jean Palmore, food service director for the Osceola County School District, home of the six schools in the study. Four of the schools have changed their menus and the other two were being used as controls with unchanged menus.

But some critics always will be difficult to please. "I want to go back to the old menu," said fourth-grader Ferrer as she munched on a ham-and-cheese sandwich on whole wheat bread, canned corn and a carrot and pea mix at Mill Creek Elementary School. "We had better food last year."

## Schwarzenegger wants better school lunches

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants to pump up his state's students with vegetables, fresh fruits and milk.

"First of all, we in California this year are introducing legisla-

tion that would ban all the sale of junk food in the schools," Schwarzenegger said during a question-and-answer session with fans on the final day of the Arnold Classic, the annual bodybuilding contest that bears his name. He said junk food would be pulled from school vending

machines in favor of healthier foods, including fruits and vegetables.

After the session Sunday, the governor's aides said Schwarzenegger supports a bill by Democratic state Sen. Martha Escutia that would ban soft drinks at public schools.







## OPINION

## A really bad guy, but still a U.S. citizen

New York Daily News

A federal court in South Carolina ruled last week that Brooklyn-born Jose Padilla, reputed al-Qaida member-in-training, cannot indefinitely be jailed without charges, notwithstanding more than ample evidence of his intent to wreak havoc on American soil and notwithstanding whatever war-on-terror intelligence his military inquisitors may yet pry out of him.

"The president has no power, neither express nor implied, neither constitutional nor statutory, to hold petitioner as an enemy combatant," the judge ruled. In other words, charge Padilla or release him. Solid argument. It is persuasively the case that Padilla is a very bad actor and that we are all much the safer for his having been behind bars for the past three years — but the man is still a U.S. citizen, entitled to constitutional protections. He cannot just be tossed into a cell for as long as authorities desire.

The rule of law simply requires that Pa-

dilla must be charged. With something. With anything.

In real terms, of course, the district court's ruling means little to Padilla.

The Justice Department will appeal — again and again, we expect — and this is a case that will almost certainly wind its way to the Supreme Court, not necessarily quickly. In real terms, Padilla will be neither charged nor released anytime soon.

But the ruling does put the White House on notice that courts do not necessarily agree that executive authority is limitless, even in time of war.

Ultimately, this will be a matter for Congress to wrestle into practical manageability.

Meanwhile, things would become much less immediately complex if only Padilla's captors might find one formal allegation or another to stick on him.

We are reminded of Roaring 'Twenties Chicago crime lord Al Capone, who was somehow, so to speak,

untouchable — until the feds took him down on marginal income tax technicalities.

*The ruling puts the White House on notice that courts do not necessarily agree that executive authority is limitless, even in time of war.*



Al thought that was a real dirty trick. But off he went to prison regardless. One way or another.

And a cell seems the right place for Jose Padilla to be as well, on the basis of what we know of him so far: a self-admitted al-Qaida soldier, a self-admitted associate of now-imprisoned terror chieftain Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a man Justice says

was plotting to blow up apartment buildings and detonate radioactive dirty bombs, a man Justice says already has given up information that remains highly classified and cannot yet be talked about. Prison's the place for him.

Keep him there. Just charge him. With something. Anything. That's the law.

## Telephone a roulette wheel for Marine recruiters

BY SUSAN REIMER

The Baltimore Sun

The Marine Corps fell slightly short of its recruiting goals in January and again in February, the first time that has happened in nearly a decade. But it was not for want of trying, because the phone was ringing in my house.

I got two calls from Marine recruiters in January, and they went something like this:

"Evening, ma'am. Is Jessica available?"

"No, I am sorry, she's not. Can I take a message?"

I wasn't surprised by the call from my college-student daughter.

People are still calling her to baby-sit, and she's been gone since August.

"This is Marine Staff Sgt. Somethingorother from the Marine recruiting office," he said. "Could you arrange for me to speak to her?"

"Oh," I said, slightly startled. "Jessica is in college."

I punctuated my response with a nervous little laugh, and I thought that would kind of settle things.

But Staff Sgt. Somethingorother only paused briefly before continuing.

"Oh. How is that going?"

I didn't think he wanted to hear about the time her laundry disappeared from the dryer and she had to call campus police. I doubt he wanted to hear about how her lacrosse team had to get

up at dawn on a Sunday morning to clean the bleachers in the football stadium, so I just said, "Fine."

It suddenly occurred to me that he was hoping Jessie was finding college a terrible disappointment and was on her way home to enlist in the Marines.

"I am sorry," I said, again laughing nervously. "Have you met Jessie?"

"No, Ma'am," he said.

"Well, before this goes any further, you should know that Jessie would never consider an occupation that required her to wear the same outfit every day, let alone an outfit of someone else's choosing."

"Ma'am," he said.

"Never mind," I said. "Thank you for calling. Good luck with your recruiting."

The next night, the phone rang again.

"Evening ma'am. Is Joseph available?"

Oh, no, I thought. Here we go again.

"No, he is not. Can I take a message?"

"Ma'am, this is Marine Staff Sgt. Reallyflatstomach of the Marine recruiting office. Could you arrange for me to speak to him?"

Exasperated, I said, "Don't you people in the armed services talk to each other? Joseph is at the Naval Academy."

I thought that would settle things, but the Marine recruiter only paused before saying, "Oh. How is that going?"

I didn't think he wanted to hear me say that it depended on your point of view. If you wanted your

son to be a military officer and go to war, you could say that things are going well.

However, if you wanted your son to graduate from an Ivy League school and take up the much less hazardous life of, say, a stockbroker, then, no, things are not going according to plan.

But all I said was, "Fine."

Then I added, "You are likely to see Joe before I do. Tell him my mother says, 'Hi.'"

Things must have been getting desperate at the Marine recruiting office because it called my friend Betsy about her son, Jeff, a high school senior.

God bless Jeff, but if the enemy offered him dinner at a Chinese restaurant or at a rib joint, it would be all over for our country.

Jeff is a wrestler and he is usu-

ally cutting weight. Food comes to have special meaning for wrestlers.

Anyway, Jeff came home from school and told his mother that a Marine recruiter had visited his class and because nobody else had raised their hands when he asked for individual meetings with the students, Jeff had raised his.

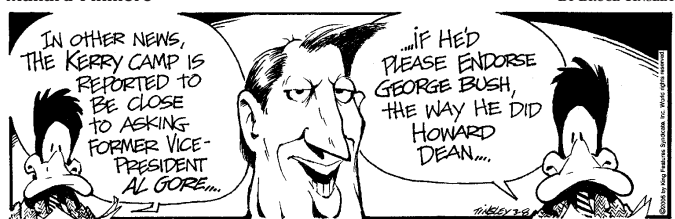
"I felt bad for him," Jeff told his mother, his voice rising defensively. That's another reason why we don't want Jeff defending our borders. He feels sorry for everybody.

Jeff didn't have to do much talking to persuade his mother to take the call from the Marine recruiter.

"Over my dead body," she said into the phone. The recruiter didn't even get the chance to ask, "So, how is that going?"

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## Kuwaitis debating women's voting rights

BY DIANA ELIAS

The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait's Cabinet on Monday hastened a parliamentary debate on an amendment it proposed to this conservative Gulf state's election law, which aims to give women the right to vote and stand as political candidates.

The decision came during a parliamentary session attended by hundreds of women activists who had earlier demonstrated outside the legislature demanding equal voting rights for women in Kuwait, a close U.S. ally that was until recently the sole democracy among Gulf Arab states.

Last month, Cabinet asked for the parliament to speed up deliberation on the amendment, which it introduced last year. The request came after 10 legislators proposed the constitutional court rule on the 1962 election law that restricts political rights to women.

Deputy prime minister, Mohammed Sharar, said the request to speed up debate needed to be fast. He said he would meet with a Parliamentary committee to discuss the proposal and set a date for a vote by the all-male house.

At one stage, Kuwaiti women watching from the parliament's gallery broke out into applause after a lawmaker backed the amendment. But the parliament's speaker ordered them and the rest of the gallery out after the outburst.

"We are the only country in the world that has a limping democracy," activist Rania al-Saad, 30, outside the parliament building as some 700 protesters chanted "Women's rights now."

Debate on women's voting rights was able to gain momentum last month after the prime minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, wrote in a rare newspaper column that it was "high time women get this right and practice it" because they were just as educated as other women in Arab and Muslim countries.

"Today, the government is showing more seriousness and good will," said Rola Dashti, a U.S.-educated economist at the forefront of the fight for the vote. "It is clear from Sheikh Sabah's moves and the national campaign for public awareness."

The 10 legislators wanting the law referred to the constitutional court withdrew their request in favor of the Cabinet-proposed amendment. Experts say a court ruling that the election law was unconstitutional could lead to Parliament's dissolution.

This was not the first time the issue has come to a vote for Kuwaiti women.

In 1999, Parliament defeated a decree by the emir to grant women their rights because it was issued when the house was not sitting.



Afghan refugee women walk inside an abandoned building in Kabul, Afghanistan, where they and other returning exiles are living Friday. Three years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan has appointed the first female provincial governor, and later this year, its people will elect a new parliament, with 25 percent of the seats reserved for women.

## Afghanistan women begin journey to political parity

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Fifteen Afghan men, heads slightly bowed, file into a crowded living room to greet the recently appointed chief of Bamian province. They sip tea and listen patiently as the new governor holds court.

Such a courtesy call is commonplace in this deeply hierarchical society when someone wins high office — save for one critical difference: On this occasion, the men's respect is directed toward a woman, the first female governor in this Islamic nation's long and tortured history.

Three years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan is casting off the shackles of fundamentalism that once barred its women from public life, kept girls from

school and barred women from working.

The selection of Habiba Sarobi to head the central highland province of Bamian is a new milestone, but the governor is the first to acknowledge that it masks a sad reality. "There are equal rights for women on paper. The challenge is to put it into practice ... Afghanistan is still a male-dominated society," Sarobi said.

For the vast majority of Afghan women, little has changed since the Taliban's ouster, with their daily lives dominated by archaic traditions and grinding poverty.

Women's literacy rates are just 14 percent, a third of what they are for men.

Before Afghanistan descended into war two decades ago, women were no strangers to high office. As early as the 1950s, they served in the legislature, and worked as

judges and diplomats. In the 1970s, a woman served as the minister of health. During the Soviet occupation of the 1980s, up to 70 percent of teachers were women.

A wave of fundamentalism swept the country after Islamic holy warriors ousted the Soviet army in 1989 — culminating seven years later in the rule of the Taliban.

Since the hard-line regime's ouster by U.S.-led forces in late 2001, millions of girls have returned to school. And while women are still mostly on the periphery of public life and business, career opportunities have reopened for them, at least in cities.

Women's rights were enshrined in a democratic constitution adopted in early 2004. But skeptics — and even the high-profile women appointees themselves — concede they have little political clout.



## Prince Charles in New Zealand

Above: Britain's Prince Charles greets with honors, traditional Maori welcome, with Lieutenant Tamahou Ripia on his arrival Monday at Government House in Wellington, New Zealand. Prince Charles is making a five day visit to New Zealand.

Right: Britain's Prince Charles has a try at shearing a Merino sheep with the help of former world champion shearer Peter Casserley at Moutere Station in Alexandra in Central Otago. Queen Elizabeth II, as his monarch, recognizes Queen Elizabeth II as his monarch.

Fotopress/AP

## Artificial heart for twin

BEIJING — Surgeons in China who are preparing to separate conjoined twin boys will let one keep their shared heart and give the other an artificial heart, a news report said Monday.

Doctors have said the risky surgery to separate the 3-month-old boys should go ahead because they will die without it. They also share a liver and intestines.

"We will give one boy the heart and use a manmade heart for the other," Dr. Fan Huitmin, a heart surgeon at Shanghai East Hospital, was quoted as saying by the Shanghai Daily newspaper.

German experts designed the artificial heart especially for infants, the report said. It didn't give any other details, and said Fan would not give a date for the operation.

## Children in containers

LAGOS, Nigeria — Police found more than 60 children packed into a shipping container in Lagos, and a police spokesman said Monday it was believed they were to be sold as slaves or servants.

A woman accompanying the children was arrested after police discovered between 60 and 70 boys and girls aged five to 14 on Sunday in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city. The children were in a container normally used for carrying fish, said Nigerian police spokesman Emmanuel Ighodalo from Abuja, the capital.

"We are trying to find out where they would be doing with children aged five to 14," said Ighodalo. "We are thinking maybe they are using them for slaves and home boys."

Ighodalo gave no further details, saying the case was under investigation.

## Munch paintings stolen

OSLO, Norway — Three works by Edvard Munch were stolen from a hotel this weekend, the second theft of the renowned Norwegian artist's art in less than seven months.

A 1915 watercolor called "Blue Dress" and two lithographs were stolen from the walls of the restaurant of the renowned Hotel Refines Hotel near the city of Moss, about 30 miles south of Oslo, late Sunday, Jan Pedersen, of the local police, said by telephone.

The watercolor was a one of kind, and would account for the bulk of the value.

It was the second such theft of Munch paintings in the Nordic country in less than seven months.

## Moldova elections

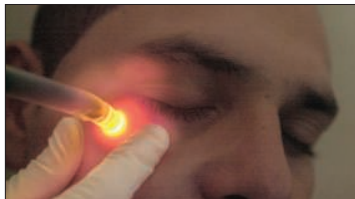
CHISINAU, Moldova — Moldova's governing pro-Western Communists won a parliamentary majority in national elections, but fell short of taking enough seats to re-elect President Vladimir Voronin, according to final results released Monday.

With all the ballots counted, Voronin's Communists had some 46 percent of the vote in Sunday's election, down from the 50 percent the party polled in 2001 elections, the Central Electoral Commission said.

Moldova's Constitutional Court is expected to certify the results in a few days.

From The Associated Press





Gang member Freddy Monterosa, 26, gets a tear-shaped tattoo removed from his face with a laser at a community health center in the city of San Salvador, El Salvador.

# El Salvador cracks down on gangs

## Current, former gang members remove telltale tattoos

BY TRACI CARL  
The Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — It's a sweltering day in San Salvador, and sweat beads on Freddy Monterosa's face, but he keeps his long-sleeved shirt on.

He doesn't want police to see his gang tattoos.

As Central American officials fight increasingly violent gangs, many current and former mem-

bers are responding by hiding their tattooed insignia, getting rid of them or discouraging recruits from getting visible body art.

A cottage industry of private clinics has grown up in El Salvador around tattoo removal. Some charge hundreds of dollars, but a few nonprofit organizations will do it for a token sum. The U.S. Embassy here even gave a local program \$85,000 for a laser tattoo-removal machine.

Tattoos have become synonymous with gangs and violence — tombstones and crosses representing fallen members, skulls that often signify drug use, elaborate drawings of other gang members, necklaces — inscriptions across the collarbone saying "F--- give me, mother, for my crazy life."

Salvadoran police say newer gang leaders are foregoing body art altogether to avoid drawing attention. Those still with tattoos complain of being refused jobs or school admission.

Monterosa, a 26-year-old father of two with another on the way, says he wanted a job as a bus driver, but no one would hire him because MS-18, the name of one of El Salvador's most infamous gangs, is printed on his forearms.

He says he still gets stopped by police suspicious of his tattoos and his activities, even though he now works with an AIDS prevention group that helps gang members and has chapters in both San Salvador and Los Angeles. It's called Homies Unidos, using the American slang word "homies."

Monterosa has begun to remove the tattoos, paying a nonprofit clinic headed by a Roman Catholic priest a few dollars for each treatment, and undergoing mandatory counseling.

Three treatments have almost removed the green teardrop by his eye that signifies his year in prison on weapons charges. But the MS-18s are a bigger job. Some tattoos take more than a year to remove.

Some clinics use the relatively painless but more expensive laser, which pulverizes the ink and causes the tattoo to slowly fade away. Monterosa's tattoo was removed with infrared light treatments, which require anesthesia and slowly burn off the tattoo with the intensity of a lit cigarette. The procedure leaves some discoloration.

Others choose a very painful abrasion method, which scrubs the affected area and leaves a noticeable scar.

Police use the tattoos to identify gang members — especially in Honduras and El Salvador, which have enacted tough laws against *maras*, as gang members are known in Spanish.

Police say action is needed against escalating gang violence that includes beatings and mutilations copied in part from El Salvador's 12-year civil war, which ended in 1992.

Many Salvadoran gang members grew up in the United States, where their families had fled to avoid the war. Deported for committing crimes, many are sneaking back into the United States bringing in even higher levels of violence, including machete attacks, U.S. authorities say.

U.S. law enforcement officials are working with their Salvadoran counterparts to find solutions. A delegation visited last week and praised the Salvadoran police's anti-gang efforts.

"From the top on down, you can see they are really focusing on this," said Tom Freeman, executive officer for the sheriff's department in California's River-side County.

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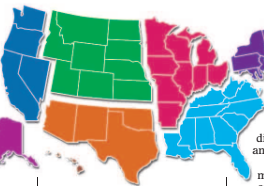
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## 5 condors released

**AZ** VERMILLION CLIFFS NATIONAL MONUMENT — Five California condor fledglings hopped from a release pen in northern Arizona and tested the air of freedom with their huge wings.

The birds are the latest release of the endangered species in the Vermillion Cliffs National Monument, just south of the Utah state line. The release adds to the wild population of the bird that two decades ago was on the verge of extinction.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Victims hiding addresses

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Secretary of State Matthew A. Brown wants to allow people deemed to be victims of domestic violence or hate crimes to hide their address from the public.

People would be able to shield their addresses in numerous state and local records including voting lists, business ownership papers, driver's licenses, property deeds, civil and criminal court files and professional licenses.

The only requirement of people seeking to hide their addresses would be to make a sworn statement before Brown's office that they are victims.

### High-tech license

**WV** CHARLESTON — The state Division of Motor Vehicles is rolling out a high-tech driver's license later this year in an attempt to reduce fraud.

The new license will include fingerprint images, face-recognition technology and other security features.

Commissioner Doug Stump says all 21 DMV regional offices should have the new technology by October.

### Rocket disappoints

**AK** ANCHORAGE — A rocket launched for aurora research from Poker Flat Research Range malfunctioned and crashed north of Fairbanks.

Wreckage from the rocket was spotted in the rocket range's impact zone in the White Mountains. Range manager Greg Walker would not give a specific location for the wreckage. Under normal conditions, the payload would have flown for 40 minutes, peaked above the Arctic Ocean coastline and fallen on the polar ice cap, Walker said.

The 70-foot, 2-inch four-stage Black Brant XII rocket reached an altitude of about 18 miles high and flew for five minutes before crashing.

### High-tech trash can

**NY** NEW YORK — The city is testing a high-tech trash can that uses solar power to sense when it is full and then automatically compact the garbage inside.

The BigBelly can's tryout began Feb. 14 in Chinatown and then was moved to Tribeca on Feb. 28, city sanitation department spokeswoman Taryn Duckett said.

Duckett said it's too early to tell whether the functions are advertised. The city decided to try out BigBelly because manufacturer Westborough, Mass.-based Seastore Power Co. Inc. offered it.

### Finches dropping dead

**MN** ST. PAUL — Call it nature's nasty trick.

This winter, common redpolls — small red-capped finches that flock at feeders — have swarmed into Minnesota from Canada, delighting birdwatchers.

But in the past three weeks, birds have been dropping dead near feeders all over the state, victims of salmonella.

People are being urged to remove finch feeders, clean them with a mild bleach or vinegar solution and not replace them for a while to force the birds to forage more widely, lessening the spread of the disease.

### Drug discount cards

**OR** SALEM — A new program designed to help Oregon's seniors save money on prescription drugs has begun mailing cards to those who signed up.

Program officials say thousands more are eligible.

The card allows seniors to purchase prescription drugs at negotiated discount prices from participating pharmacies.

### Baby left at hospital

**MA** BOSTON — A newborn girl was surrendered in



### Candle for cousin

Mercedes Bryant, 4, lights a candle for her missing cousin, Jessica Lunsford, during a candlelight vigil held in Morrow, Ohio, at the home of Angela Bryant, Lunsford's mother.

what officials are calling the first successful test of the safe haven law enacted last fall.

The healthy infant was turned in by a parent at an unspecified hospital in the Merrimack Valley, an official said. The baby was later discharged from the hospital and placed in a foster home.

Monteiro said no other information would be released because of privacy concerns. But she said the baby was the first surrendered since Oct. 29, when Massachusetts became the 47th state to allow parents to leave unwanted newborns at certain locations without legal ramifications.

### Sprucing up rest areas

**VA** RICHMOND — Virginia lawmakers have earmarked \$20 million in funding to help spruce up or replace aging highway stops before Jamestown's 400th anniversary brings crowds of tourists to the state.

"We had to do something," said Sen. Charles R. Hawkins, R-Pittsylvania and a member of the Senate Finance Committee. "It just got to the point of being a disgrace. If you plan to invite people to your home, you have to give them a place to stop and rest."

For more than five years, people have complained about the condition of many of Virginia's 41 rest areas and welcome centers.

### Lost Alamo flag

**TX** DALLAS — The only flag known to have survived the Battle of the Alamo has been found on display at a museum in Mexico, more than a decade after Mexican officials said they had lost it, a newspaper has reported.

Several flags reportedly flew at the Alamo during the March 1836 battle between a small band of Texas fighters and a Mexican army 10 times their number. All except one flag was destroyed.

More than a decade ago, Texas officials stepped up efforts to get the flag back, but the Mexicans said they had lost it.

A reporter from The Dallas Morning News recently found the flag at Mexico's National History Museum.

It now rests in a glass case alongside 19th-century rifles. The once-blue rectangle of silk has faded to dirty white, but the gold fringe is intact and an eagle still spreads over the words "God & Liberty."

### Goat meat-cocaine trade

**PA** MOUNT PLEASANT — Four men stole, killed and butchered a goat so they could trade its meat for crack cocaine, police said.

Authorities charged the four men with theft, receiving stolen property, cruelty to animals and criminal conspiracy for the Dec. 24 incident in Bulskin Township, about 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

James Walter Albright, 37, dragged the 4-year-old pygmy goat from its pen with a rope and tied the animal to a shrub, where he and Charles W. Smith Jr., 20, killed the animal by beating its head with a hammer or a steel pipe, police said.



### Pretty in pink

Two-year-old Haley Ho catches her umbrella in Palo Alto, Calif.



### Waiting for spring

A rather round and robust robin sits in the afternoon sun looking for berries in the snow in Lancaster, Pa. The sight of robins has been leading some locals to hope for an early arrival of spring-like weather.



### Just a little push

Myisha Heinen is pushed by her friends, Haley Haines left, and Alena Burnstein as the 9-year-old girls play on a swing in Prairie Village, Kan.





## Cruising Daytona

A couple on a three-wheeled motorcycle cruise on Main Street in Daytona Beach, Fla. Bike Week 2005 is expected to draw half a million bikers to the ocean side city famous for its white sandy beaches.



## Showing their spirit

Fans with faces painted with the United States flag cheer during a Davis Cup tennis match at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif.



## Colorful skier

Harold Schmidt, dressed as "Enola Gay," dances down the course during a drag ski race-costume contest, part of "Ascend: the Winter Party at Lake Tahoe," in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.



## National anthem auditions

Chris Stafford, of Canton, Ohio, sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" inside an empty Jacobs Field as he, and others, audition for the chance to sing at a Cleveland Indians home game sometime this summer. The auditions were just one of a number of activities held at the stadium as part of an open house.

## Flushed out by cops

**AR** FORT SMITH — Getting tanked has a whole new meaning for a woman on the lam. Brandy Shante Moss, 19, decided that police wanting to talk to her about a domestic dispute complaint would never think to look in a septic tank.

They did. Officer Danny Baker found Moss in her hideout and stepped on the tank to arrest her.

The tank collapsed on Moss, injuring her badly enough that she had to go to the hospital.

Baker and his colleagues responding to the call said they saw a man and a woman run from a house to an abandoned one nearby. The woman, Moss, found the septic tank behind the abandoned house.

After being treated, Moss was booked into the Sebastian County Jail on suspicion of fleeing apprehension and two counts of third-degree domestic battery. She also was charged with carrying a weapon and failure to comply with a court order.

## Beach takes pounding

**NJ** VENTNOR — A beach rebuilt last year as part of a \$24 million shore protection project has taken a pounding from recent storms. Waves have carved out 4-foot cliffs of sand from a barrier dune and damaged walkways and fences. Officials estimate that the storms removed about 300,000 cubic yards of sand, or a fifth of the total used in Ventnor.

## Adoption scam

**AL** WETUMPKA — Cherish Tarbox and her mother, Jenny Lodge, pleaded guilty to using Tarbox's infant twins as bait in an adoption scam. Police said Tarbox, 20, and Lodge, 42, scammed five prospective adoptive couples out of more than \$17,000 by offering to allow them to adopt the twin boys if they paid for medical and other expenses.

## Janitor leaves gifts

**IN** AMO — A janitor has left \$80,000 to the school where he worked almost 15 years. Jack Eggers, who died of a brain tumor in January 2004 at age 69, left more than \$200,000 to several causes, including Mill Creek West Elementary School. He retired in November 2003 and occasionally would visit to read to the children.

## Husband charged

**MD** ELKTON — A husband was charged with his wife's death after police found her 81-pound body on a soiled mattress inside a bedroom where she had allegedly been confined for years.

John Joseph Dougherty, 52, had allegedly kept his wife, Mary Elizabeth Kilrain, 46, locked in a bedroom since she had an aneurysm in 1999 and began to constantly yell at her children, charging documents said.

He also allegedly told his daughters — ages 10, 13 and 16 — to lock their mother in the bedroom after they visited her, the court papers said.

Dougherty called police after one of his daughters tried to give Kilrain water and found her dead, police said.

Officers arriving at the home in Elkton, about 50 miles northeast of Baltimore, found her lying on a mattress surrounded by moldy food, excrement and a broken cane likely used to bang against the locked door, court papers said.

Dougherty was charged with involuntary manslaughter and abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult family member. He was ordered held at the county jail on \$350,000 bond, police said.

"It was one of the worst scenes I have ever seen in my 27 years of law enforcement," said Detective Sgt. Bernard Chiominto, of the Cecil County sheriff's office.

The daughters were placed in a foster home, Chiominto said.

## Rare sheep sighting

**WI** ELKHORN — Game warden Tim Price had to see it to believe it when a woman reported she saw a wild bighorn sheep near the interstate in Walworth County.

"I thought she was a nut," Price said. "Ironically enough, that very next day I was on Peak Station Road and I thought, 'That's a bighorn ram.'"

The sheep has been seen numerous times since November roaming in Walworth County. It may be a wild bighorn or it may be another species of sheep. People have described it as a brown ram with curled horns and a white butt.

Norma Botma and her friend Lauri Paddock were driving to Milwaukee from Elkton on Dec. 16 when Paddock saw the animal near Walworth County Trunk D and Interstate 43.

"I said, 'It looks like a bighorn sheep,'" Botma recalled. "When we came home and told Lauri's husband, he thought we both had been drinking."

## Snow record approaches

**CO** DENVER — Colorado is heading into the traditionally snowiest period of the year with its best snowpack since 1997. Recently, the statewide snowpack was at 109 percent of the 30-year average, the best for this time of year since the five-year drought began. The northwestern corner of the state remains on the national drought map. Ten states rely on the Colorado snowpack for water.

## Budgetary success

**VT** MONTPELIER — School districts enjoyed moderate success at winning approval of their annual budgets at town meetings, according to Jeffrey Francis, executive director of the Vermont Superintendents Association. Of 246 budgets that have been decided, 226 passed, 19 failed and consideration of one other was deferred. Another six budgets were reduced before they passed.

## Pastor voted out

**IN** MARION — A pastor who insisted his first firing was invalid has again been voted out by members of the church. However, his attorney is questioning whether a handful of people who didn't vote could have changed the outcome.

Of 99 Grace Missionary Baptist Church members, 50 voted to remove the Rev. Ed McDowell, while 46 chose to retain him. Three members abstained.

Stories and photos from wire services

## FACES

## Texas wallflower comes into bloom

BY SUSAN CARPENTER

Los Angeles Times

**W**hen Tift Merritt saw "Grammy" as the subject of e-mail after e-mail last December, her first reaction was, "Oh. Someone we know must have been nominated." The idea that she had been selected just didn't seem likely.

But there the 30-year-old Texas native was, in the big leagues, with her Southern-fried "Tambourine" competing for best country album against country institution Loretta Lynn and chart-toppers Tim McGraw, Keith Urban and Gretchen Wilson.

Known chiefly as a critics' darling, Merritt was clearly the dark horse in the race, so she wasn't surprised when Lynn was called on stage at Los Angeles' Staples Center Feb. 13 to pick up the Grammy — and not just because of Merritt's low profile.

The singer-songwriter may live south of the Mason-Dixon line and be signed to a Nashville label, but the strum and twang of "Tambourine" are leavened with soul and sprinklings of gospel in a style Merritt calls a "rock-soul throw-down."

If it is country music, it's heavily footnoted with complementary styles. The part of the country genre she most identifies with is its classic storytelling.

"That storytelling is what I'm concerned with," she explained over a cup of tea recently in a Hollywood hotel restaurant. "In a lot of ways, what feels so special about the nomination is that somebody thought beyond what it was."

"Tambourine" is the follow-up to Merritt's critically acclaimed 2002 debut, "Bramble Rose," a slower, more introspective record that stuck to her roots and clearly defined boundaries. More down-tempo than upbeat for most of its 51 minutes, the CD was a warm introduction to Merritt's fragile trill.

Reaves in tastemaker publications, from the New Yorker to Rolling Stone, helped keep Merritt on the road for a year, but it was during that time that she began to feel constrained by the tenor of her first batch of songs.

"Our live shows have always had a lot of energy," she said. "When we were touring with 'Bramble Rose,' I felt like what I wanted to do next was a show where every night I could come off stage feeling like I'd just left a part of myself (up there). I wanted to make something as sincere and genuine and from me, but I wanted to do it in a way

## Country singer Tift Merritt has arrived

Texas native Tift Merritt earned a Grammy nomination for the colorful, soulful album "Tambourine."

Los Angeles Times

that was loud, more like church or a party."

She's succeeded, on the album and in her recent live shows. During a performance last month at the Troubadour in Los Angeles, backup singers and a quivering organ were perfect accompaniment to Merritt, who was as charismatic as a preacher. And some of her songs have such an uplifting spiritual tone that they would be welcome at a revival meeting.

Oozing Southern charm with her quick wit and casual banter, Merritt had an easier time than many in winning over the traditionally stoic L.A. crowd.

Here's an artist who clearly loves the stage and appreciates the rapt attention of

her audience, but it took years before she felt comfortable in front of a crowd.

Billing her for the first time as Tift Merritt, "Bramble Rose" was recorded with the same musicians she'd played with for six years.

But the singer wanted to take her sound to a new level with "Tambourine," and she did it with the help of producer George Drakoulas, who has worked with other rock/country hybrids, including the Black Crowes and Tom Petty.

Musically, "Tambourine" leans heavily on rock and soul, but lyrically it's pure country. Before pursuing music Merritt was an aspiring fiction writer, and it shows

in songs that could be novellas if they weren't delivered with a guitar.

All of her lyrics are complicated human dramas, most of them romantic. In stories that unfold on buses and in hotels, they explore love from all angles.

"I think it's really easy for all of us to preoccupy ourselves with easily available dramas that are less than the truth," Merritt explained. "I try to write about what's important, to say what I really mean. I don't have the kind of mind that can take everything in at once. I want to sit with something and think about it. The details are what make things passionate. You can't see them if you're too close."

## Cher sues music publisher

Singer and actress Cher is suing Warner/Chappell Music Inc. for breach of contract on claims that it failed to pay royalties estimated at more than \$250,000.

The lawsuit, filed last week in Los Angeles Superior Court, alleges that the music publisher has not paid song and performance royalties for the last four years.

The other plaintiffs include Chastity Bono, the daughter of Cher and her late husband Sonny Bono, and Christy Bono, Bono's daughter from his first marriage.

Other plaintiffs are Mary Bono-Baxley and her children Chianna and Cesare Bono. It was not immediately clear whether she is Rep. Mary Bono, R-Palm Springs, who married ex-minor league baseball player Glenn Baxley in 2001. Singing duo Cher and Sonny Bono had reached written agreements in 1965 and 1966 for recording services with York Records and Atlantic Recording Corporation that required them to pay royalties and provide an accounting of

the payments, the suit said.

## Oprah on Vanity Fair's best dressed list

Oprah Winfrey's La Perla sweats — and the rest of her self-described "classic, fun and relaxed" look — has earned her a spot on the Vanity Fair best dressed list for a second year in a row.

"The key to elegance is not just wearing beautiful things but making what you're wearing come alive," she tells the magazine for its April issue.

Also on the list again are Sofia Coppola, Kate Moss, Queen Rania of Jordan and actress Sienna Miller. Miller says Edie Sedgwick is her fashion icon, and she picks Jimi Hendrix. Jim Morrison and fiancée Jude Law as the most stylish men.



Winfrey

Law, who says he looks like a "messy schoolteacher," also made the list, along with Andre 3000, newscaster Anderson Cooper, musician Charlie Watts and director Wes Anderson.

## Sri Lankan musicians trying to raise funds

Sri Lankan musicians are trying to rally stars such as Elton John, Madonna and Ricky Martin to record an album to raise relief funds for countries hit by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

Asoka Gunawardena, spokesman for United Artists of Sri Lanka, said the group hopes to release "One Nation, One World, One Love" on March 26.

The Sri Lankan group has contacted Western music industry representatives to try rallying stars to contribute to the 18-song album, he said. Money from CD sales will be used to build schools in tsunami-ravaged countries and for a monument in Sri Lanka.

From The Associated Press

# Alleged drug violence rocks Mexican town

## Special agents descend on border area where 20 have been killed this year

BY JORGE VARGAS  
The Associated Press

NEUVO LAREDO, Mexico — More than 700 soldiers and federal state agents took to the streets of this important city on the U.S.-Mexico border Sunday to help local authorities control an increasing wave of violence believed to be drug-related.

On Saturday, two men whose mouths were covered with adhesive tape, were shot and killed inside a sedan left beside a highway linking Nuevo Laredo and the city of Monterrey.

Those killings came less than 24 hours after a gunman on a bicycle opened fire on a group of men smoking marijuana and drinking beer as they sat in a parked car in this city's Colonia Victoria neighborhood

around 11:30 p.m. Friday. Two passengers were killed and a bystander was wounded in that attack.

The four victims raised to 20 the number of people who have been killed in ambush-style shootings in Nuevo Laredo so far this year.

The city is located across from Laredo, Texas.

Arturo Jimenez, a commander of the Federal Preventative Police, said in addition to the massive mobilization of forces, investigators would begin interviewing Nuevo Laredo municipal police officers and state prosecutors in search of those who may be taking bribes from drug smuggling gangs.

"It's difficult to combat crime when there are a lot of allies of organized crime who block our efforts," said Jimenez, who

was sent to oversee the Nuevo Laredo crackdown by Mexico's Public Safety Secretary Ramon Huerta.

Jimenez said the first priority will be re-establishing law and order, but that soldiers and agents would also eventually play an active role in going after key drug smugglers.

The border region in Mexico's northeast has seen an increase in drug violence after the area's alleged kingpin, Osiel Cardenas, was arrested in 2003 in the border city of Matamoros.

Authorities say the violence has intensified in recent months because another reputed drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, has been fighting smugglers loyal to Cardenas to gain access to the drug smuggling routes in Nuevo Laredo.

Around 9 a.m. Sunday, more than 40 ve-

hicles loaded down with federal agents rolled into the city, while soldiers arrived to patrol poorer, violent neighborhoods.

Dispatching federal and state authorities and soldiers to problem spots along the U.S.-Mexico border is not new. In recent years, special forces have descended on Tijuana and soldiers and federal agents were deployed to Nuevo Laredo amid growing violence here as recently as January.

In the past, reinforcements usually have calmed violence-ridden areas for a few days, but have had little long-term effect.

The deployment comes in the wake of a U.S. State Department issued travel advisory from late January which alerted citizens to recent drug-trafficking and kidnapping violence on the Mexican side of the shared border.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will visit Mexico City on Thursday to discuss security, migration and economic issues.

# Northern glaciers continue to shrink

BY DOUG MELLGREN  
The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Norwegian glaciers shrank for the fourth straight year in 2004 because of warm summers and winters with little snow. Some receded at the fastest rate since measurements started in 1900, a report issued Tuesday found.

Glaciers build up year after year from snow that eventually turns to ice if it does not melt during the summer, and can have foundation ice that is 5,000 years old.

The massive ice floes have been shrinking worldwide over the past century because of global warming, according to the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate.

However, Bjarne Kjoellmoen, the chief engineer of the directorate, was reluctant to predict broad trends for Norway based on four years of measurements, since many of the same glaciers had grown in the previous 15 years.

"It is also a little difficult to predict a trend in a country this long," he said. Norway is nearly as long as continental Europe.

The report said the 22 of the 26 glaciers measured last year had decreased in size, while one in northern Norway had grown.

Kjoellmoen said natural cycles and greenhouse gas driven by global warming may both be part of the explanation.

He said many glaciers were stable from the 1930s through the 1960s, with the amount of winter snow equaling the amount of summer runoff.

"The glaciers have been shrinking for about 100 years," he said. Kjoellmoen added that some areas, such as the western coast, haven't had enough snow to maintain the glaciers for a century.



Jan Agha, left, treats the ankle of a patient Tuesday as others wait for their turn in the Bird Market of Kabul, Afghanistan. Agha, a former Olympic wrestler, has been treating minor fractures for 15 years in what is known as the "Wrestler's Hospital."

# Health care with a twist

## Former Olympic wrestler fills orthopedic niche in Afghan capital

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Sitting cross-legged in the gloom of a tiny shop, a shoeshine boy gasped as the bones in his left arm crunched back into position in the powerful hands of Jan Agha, proprietor of Kabul's "Wrestler's Hospital."

A visit to Agha's grimy store in the capital's bird market is the choice for many Afghans with minor fractures, dislocations or sprains. It's faster and cheaper than a hospital, and those who come here seem unfazed by the hulking caregiver's admitted lack of orthopedic training.

"The hospital takes ages, and the wrestler is so experienced, so he's the man," said Rafiq, a 21-year-old who had his swollen elbow daubed in cold egg and bandaged Wednesday. He injured it in a run-in with an impatient traffic cop.

The young man handed Agha 20 Afghanis — about 47 cents — for his five-minute diagnosis and treatment and happily pronounced himself mended.

"Now I can get back to work," he said.

Agha said his skills were handed down through several generations of butchers in his family. "The leg of a sheep is just the same" — and honed on about 15 patients a day.

Even a French military officer chose Agha's "quick fix" for a damaged ankle and was astounded at the results, he said, flashing the dog-eared calling card of a Capt. Mouillefarine.

Sometimes, those injured in car wrecks are brought in, but Agha said he sent them to the hospital if they had open fractures. The fact that Agha is a former Afghan wrestling champion is incidental, but a central part of his local fame. Three framed photos of a youthful Agha in a wrestling singlet clutching medals and flexing his muscles adorn the room.

Agha said he gave up wrestling during the civil war that devastated the capital in the 1980s, but hoped to start coaching again as Afghanistan's post-Taliban recovery encourages young Afghans to take up sports.

But on Wednesday afternoon, he was treating two young soccer players for injuries to their toes and fingers.

# Norwegian army tank slips, slides into home

The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Norwegian homeowner Odin Viken woke with a start Monday, fearing his house was being shaken by an earthquake.

But this earthquake was man-made: A 26-ton tank slammed into Viken's house in Vassbotn, some 350 miles north of Oslo, at about 5:30 a.m., the military said.

The Norwegian tank, a CV-90 armored fighting vehicle, was part of the 15-nation Battle Griffin military exercise in western and northern Norway, a statement said. There were no injuries.

The tank went through a wall and part way into the bathroom, Viken said on national radio.

"It sounded like an earthquake. The whole house shook, and it was terrible," he said. "I was very afraid and very angry."

The military said the cause of the accident was being investigated, while Viken said the driver told him that he lost control after the vehicle struck an ice patch.

# Dutch heading out

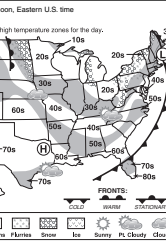
AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Dutch natives are leaving the Netherlands at the fastest rate since the 1950s, mostly because of economic factors, the Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics said Monday.

In 2004, 49,000 young emigrants left the Netherlands, a country of 16.3 million, with nearby Germany and Belgium as top destinations.

"Work and marriage are the most important reasons to leave. Other reasons are a better housing and lower taxes," the agency said in a statement.

From The Associated Press



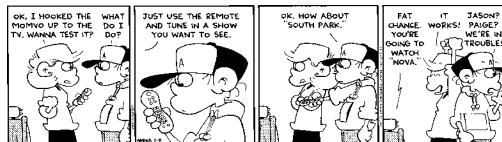


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Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



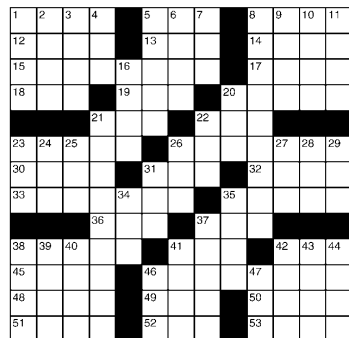
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



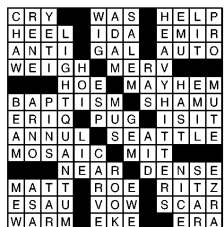
## Across

- 1 Unfortunate occurrence
- 5 Clamorous partner of 13-Across
- 8 Injure
- 12 Chaplin's widow
- 13 See 5-Across
- 14 Cookie name
- 15 Small telescope
- 17 Hideous
- 18 Whammy
- 19 Frequently
- 20 Victims
- 21 Lemieux milieu
- 22 Binge
- 23 "Witness" sect
- 30 Actress Moore
- 31 Shack
- 32 Met melody
- 33 California crop
- 35 Song of praise
- 36 Birthstone, e.g.
- 37 More, to Manuel
- 38 Obey Alan Funt
- 41 "—voyage!"
- 42 Water (Fr.)
- 45 Zhivago's love
- 46 Abolitionist
- Frederick
- 48 "Lucky Jim" author
- 49 B&B
- 50 Rue the run
- 51 Disarray
- 52 Favorite
- 53 Backyard building

## Down

- 1 "Poppycock!"
- 2 Easy stride
- 3 Layered quartet
- 4 Humorist
- 5 Rub the wrong way
- 6 Reddish-brown color
- 7 "Absolutely"
- 8 It measures time
- 9 Incite
- 10 Hinge (on)
- 11 Santa's load
- 12 Nessel's home
- 20 Crony
- 21 Mica
- 22 Stick out like a sore thumb
- 23 Big bother
- 24 Mal de —
- 25 "—Yankee ..."
- 26 Clear the tables
- 27 Distinct period
- 28 Before, in verse
- 29 Muppet eagle
- 31 Height of fashion
- 34 "Holy cow!"
- 35 Throe
- 37 Saddle horse
- 38 Bridge cop
- 39 Jerry Herman heroine
- 40 Rainbow
- 41 Dog's treat
- 42 Apiece
- 43 Tennis legend
- 44 Secondhand
- 46 Chip topper
- 47 Part of UNLV

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-8

## CRYPTOQUIP

BD H KARY ADBBXN LEJPNV  
VAIP. B KJNREWN BY IAETV  
TAAF TBFN H XHRN AD  
LTHXFWHBT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING AN INSECT WAS SINGING WITH CLOSED LIPS, MIGHT IT BE CALLED A HUMBUG?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals O



## SCOREBOARD

## AFN TV &amp; Radio

## Tuesday

**AFN-Sports, 6 a.m.**—College basketball: West Coast Conference Championship game.

**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.**—Bowling: Babe Ruth (Ind.) vs. ...

**AFN-Sports, noon-10 p.m.**—Teams TD: **AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.**—Baseball: Spring training, Texas vs. San Francisco.

## Wednesday

**AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.**—College basketball: Mid-American Conference Championship game.

**AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.**—College basketball: Atlantic Coast Conference women's Championship game.

**AFN-Sports, 12:30 a.m.**—NBA: Teams TD: ...

**AFN-Sports, 6:30 p.m.**—Outdoors: Babe Ruth's "Good Friday" (Ind.)

**AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.**—College basketball: Big East tournament (Ind.)

**AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.**—College basketball: College World Series (Ind.)

All times are Central European Time. If indicated, please dialing. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.afnradio.net](http://www.afnradio.net) for more information.

## Baseball

## Spring training games

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct
Detroit	1	0	1.000
Tampa Bay	1	0	1.000
Cleveland	1	0	1.000
Baltimore	1	0	1.000
Minnesota	1	0	1.000
Kansas City	1	0	1.000
New York	1	0	1.000
Seattle	1	0	1.000

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	1	0	1.000
Arizona	1	0	1.000
Chicago	1	0	1.000
St. Louis	1	0	1.000
San Francisco	1	0	1.000
Colorado	1	0	1.000
Pittsburgh	1	0	1.000
Florida	1	0	1.000
Philadelphia	1	0	1.000

Colt-squid games against non-major league teams not included.

## Sunday's games

Toronto 6, Minnesota 1  
St. Louis 5, Florida 3  
Boston 5, Philadelphia 4  
Detroit 2, Cleveland 2 tie, 10 innings  
Atlanta 6, New York Mets (ss) 4  
Baltimore 4, LA Dodgers 2  
Tampa Bay 5, Pittsburgh 3  
New York Mets (ss) 14, Washington (ss) 5  
Cincinnati 6, N.Y. Yankees 5  
Texas 10, Oakland 4  
Seattle 5, St. Louis 2 tie, 10 innings  
Milwaukee 5, Kansas City 4  
Arizona 5, Oakland 4  
San Francisco 10, Chicago Cubs 1

## Monday's games

Washington vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.  
Tampa Bay vs. Minnesota at Myers, Fla.  
Houston vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.  
Cleveland vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale  
Toronto vs. Cleveland (ss) at Winter Haven  
LA Dodgers (ss) vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.  
Boston vs. Philadelphia at Fort Lauderdale  
Baltimore vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.  
Cleveland (ss) vs. New York Yankees (ss) at Tampa, Fla.  
Chicago Cubs vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.  
Milwaukee vs. Seattle at Tacoma, Wash.  
San Diego vs. LA Angels at Tempe, Ariz.  
Arizona (ss) vs. Colorado (ss) at Tucson, Ariz.  
San Francisco vs. Colorado (ss) at Tucson, Ariz.

## Tuesday's games

Washington vs. Houston at Lakeland, Fla.  
Tampa Bay vs. Detroit at Myers, Fla.  
Cleveland vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale  
Florida vs. Texas at Fort Myers, Fla.  
Cincinnati vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.  
Washington vs. St. Louis at Fort Lauderdale  
Philadelphia vs. Toronto (ss) at Dunedin, Fla.  
Toronto (ss) vs. Minnesota (ss) at Fort Myers, Fla.  
Texas vs. N.Y. Mets at Fort Lauderdale  
Texas vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
San Diego vs. Milwaukee at San Diego, Calif.  
Oakland (ss) vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz.  
Chicago White Sox vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz.

Milwaukee (ss) vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.  
Oakland (ss) vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at Mesa, Ariz.  
Chicago Cubs (ss) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.  
Seattle (ss) vs. LA Angels at Tempe, Ariz.

## College basketball

## Sunday's men's scores

**Florida, 53, Kentucky 30**  
Florida St., 68, Virginia 61  
North Carolina 68, Wake Forest 56  
South Carolina 76, Mississippi 70, OT  
Wake Forest 56, N.C. State 49  
Missouri 72, Kansas 67  
Northern St., 50, T. 73, Winona St. 69  
Ohio St., 65, Illinois 59  
S. Indiana 79, N. Kentucky 49  
Metro St. 66, CAA 57

## Sunday's women's scores

**Boston U. 77, New Hampshire 67**  
Drexel 71, Old Dominion 50  
North Carolina 50, Duke 31  
N. Dakota St., 61, Grand Canyon 50  
Ohio St. 68, CAA 57

## Women's conference tournaments

**Atlantic Coast Conference**  
Greensboro, N.C.  
Semifinals  
Duke 74, Maryland 72  
Virginia 72, North Carolina 68

## Midwest Conference

North Carolina vs. Duke  
Alabama vs. Tennessee  
Tennessee vs. Kentucky  
Kentucky vs. Tennessee

## Midwest Conference

Temple 64, Xavier 61  
Temple 64, Xavier 61

## Midwest Conference

Temple 64, Xavier 61  
Temple 64, Xavier 61

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Temple 64, Xavier 61

## Midwest Conference

Temple 64, Xavier 61  
Temple 64, Xavier 61

## Wright State 72, Detroit 66

## Championship

Wiscousin-Green Bay vs. Wright State  
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference  
Championship

## Midwest Conference

Canisius 60, Fairfield 56  
Midwest Conference  
Championship

## Midwest Conference

Bowling Green vs. Kent State  
Ball State vs. Eastern Michigan  
Marshall vs. Toledo  
Midwest Conference  
Championship

## Midwest Conference

Oral Roberts 64, Chicago State 44  
Oakland, Mich. vs. S.C. State 58  
Semifinals

## Midwest Conference

Western Illinois vs. Oral Roberts  
Midwest Conference  
Championship

## Midwest Conference

Florida A&M vs. Morgan State  
North Carolina A&T vs. S.C. State 58  
Semifinals

## Midwest Conference

Norfolk State vs. Bethune-Cookman  
Quarterfinals

## Midwest Conference

Coppin State vs. Towson  
Coppin State vs. Towson

## Midwest Conference

Hogwarts vs. Maryland Eastern Shore  
Delaware State vs. highest seeded winner  
Midwest Conference  
Championship

## Midwest Conference

SW Missouri State vs. Illinois State  
Indiana vs. Bradley  
Northwestern vs. Drake  
Northern Iowa vs. Evansville  
Midwest Conference  
Championship

## Midwest Conference

New Mexico vs. New Mexico  
New Mexico vs. UNLV  
Brigham Young vs. Air Force

## Midwest Conference

Quinnipiac vs. St. Francis  
Robert Morris at Sacred Heart  
St. Francis vs. Quinnipiac  
St. Francis vs. Quinnipiac

## Midwest Conference

Arizona State vs. Montana  
Arizona State vs. Montana  
Arizona State vs. Montana

## Midwest Conference

Colgate at Holy Cross  
Southern Conference  
Championship

## Midwest Conference

Tennessee 67, LSU 61  
Southern Conference  
Championship

## Midwest Conference

Nicholls State at Louisiana-Monroe  
Stephen F. Austin at Texas-Arlington  
Texas State at Texas Tech  
Texas State at Texas Tech

## Midwest Conference

Alabama State vs. Jacksonville State  
Alabama State vs. Jacksonville State  
Alabama State vs. Jacksonville State

## Midwest Conference

Arkansas State 61, South Alabama 53  
Mid-Tennessee 59, North Texas 58, OT  
Semifinals

## Midwest Conference

LA-Loyola vs. Arkansas St.  
Kentucky vs. Tennessee St.  
Midwest Conference  
Championship

## Midwest Conference

Santa Clara 77, Gonzaga 66  
Midwest Conference  
Championship

## Midwest Conference

Alcorn State vs. Prairie View  
Alabama State vs. Jackson State  
Southern vs. Mississippi Valley State  
Alabama A&M vs. Grambling State  
Midwest Conference  
Championship

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LA-Loyola vs. Arkansas St.  
Kentucky vs. Tennessee St.  
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Championship

## J.M. O'Leary 151,125 64-69-70-71-72-73

## Championship

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# Truex earns Busch win south of the border

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — NASCAR's first sun-filled journey south of the border finished a lot like those back home, with regulars Martin Truex Jr., Kevin Harvick and Carl Edwards at the front of the pack.

Truex used a planned early pit stop — and took advantage of a lucky yellow flag that shut the door on two pursuers — to hang onto the lead over the final 28 laps of the first points-paying NASCAR race outside the United States in a half century.

Nextel Cup driver Kevin Harvick finished just over 6 seconds back, second in a third-consecutive Busch Series race after slipping past Carl Edwards on the 78th lap of the 80-lap Telcel-Motorola 200.

Truex made two early pit stops, his last at the 46th lap.

"We wanted to have a full tank of gas with 40 laps to go," Truex said.

The no-stop came seconds before a caution flag came out.

Adrian Fernandez and Boris Said, running in the top five, were caught in the approach to pit road and were penalized for pitting too quickly after the caution period started. They started at the back of pack, dashing their chances to win.

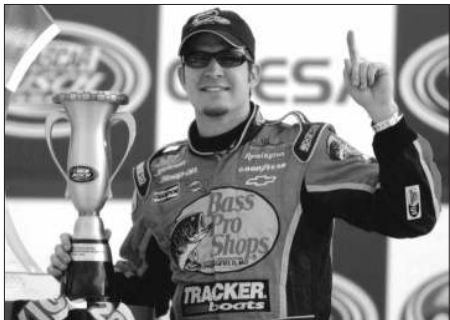
"As soon as we reached pit road and they told me the caution was on, I said, 'Yeah! That's perfect!' We caught a little bit of luck there," Truex said.

Said battled back to fifth and Fernandez to 10th by the end of the race.

Edwards had a remarkable comeback as well. He smashed his main car in practice and blew a replacement engine. Yet he managed to qualify ninth and finish third in his backup car.

Reed Sorenson, who entered the race second to Harvick in the season's second standing, was running strong before spinning onto the grass on lap 59. Virtually all of the pack passed before he could get back on the track.

The race was a boost for NASCAR's effort to build a new fan base in Mexico,



Martin Truex Jr. celebrates after winning the NASCAR series race at the Hermanos Rodriguez race track in Mexico City on Saturday. It was NASCAR's first race in Mexico.

where open-wheel racing has been dominant. Promoters said a healthy 94,229 people turned out on race day following a 38,319 crowd for Saturday's qualifying.

"This could become the marquee event for the series," said Robbie Weiss, NASCAR's chief of international business. But he said no contract had yet been signed for next year.

Ticket prices started at 180 pesos — about \$17 — nearly double the country's median daily wage.

But fans hoping for a hometown superstar had to be satisfied the pole position and early race leadership of the little-known Jorge Goeters, who was making his first Busch Series race.

Goeters led for the first 24 laps, but his first NASCAR pit stop was a disaster — coming in under the green flag and stopping initially at a neighboring pit.

He backed up to 10th but pulled off the track on the 6th lap with his car spewing smoke.

Fernandez, making his first NASCAR start, had the fastest practice time but a crash in qualifying knocked him out of the back of Sunday's grid. He fought back to the lead, but was then penalized to the back again.

Edwards clipped another Mexican star, Michel Jourdain Jr., spinning him into the wall and knocking him out of the race for 10 laps while his crew worked on repairs.

"I was a little overaggressive," Edwards said in a public apology to Jourdain. "I hope I can make it up to him."

Goeters Contreras, the first Mexican to race in a Busch race, was running a steady sixth when his car slowed on the 72nd lap and he pitted.

## Weldon wins IRL opener at Homestead

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Dan Weldon celebrated by doing doughnuts in his car and got victory hugs from his crew, but the Englishman didn't want to make too much of his overpowering victory Sunday in the season-opening IRL IndyCar race at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

"It's one race into the championship. One race," the smiling Weldon said after dominating the Toyota Indy 300, leading 158 of the 200 laps. "It's meant to be it's meant to be I just enjoy winning races."

Weldon, part of the powerful four-car Andretti Green Racing team, pulled away from the pack midway through the race and appeared headed to a runaway victory when the race was interrupted by a frightening eight-car crash on lap 159.

The big wreck — the last of several cautions — began moments after a restart when Kosuke Matsuura, trying to pass pole winner Tomas Scheckter on the outside, slid sideways and hit Scheckter.

Before all the crashing and banging ended, the accident also took out Scott Sharp, Bryan Herta, Scott Dixon, Roger Yasukawa, Ed Carpenter and 22-year-old rookie Danica Patrick, making her first IRL start.

Patrick, the only woman in the field, walked into the infield care center but was sent by ambulance to a nearby hospital for observation after being diagnosed with a concussion.

After a long cleanup the green flag waved with 24 laps remaining and Weldon steadily pulled away. The race ended with included two-time IRL champion and defending race winner Sam Hornish Jr., reigning series champion Tony Kanaan, Helio Castroneves and Vitantonio Liuzzi.

The race ended with Weldon's Honda-powered Dallara 3.7 seconds — virtually an entire straightaway on the 1 1/2-mile oval — ahead of a three-wide battle for second barely won by Hornish.

Kanaan was credited with third, just ahead of Meira.

Castroneves finished fifth, followed by Danica Patrick, reigning IRL two-time Patrick Carpenter, the last driver on the lead lap.

# Ex-Washington coach Neuheisel settles suit for \$4.7M

The Associated Press

KENT, Wash. — Fired football coach Rick Neuheisel will receive \$4.7 million in a settlement Monday of his lawsuit against the NCAA and the University of Washington.

The deal was announced by Judge Michael Spearman just before closing arguments were to

## Sports briefs

begin in the 5-week trial.

Neuheisel will receive a cash payment of \$2.5 million from the NCAA.

and the university will forgive a \$1.5 million loan from the school that Neuheisel earlier had been asked to pay back. The university also will pay him \$500,000 in cash and \$200,000 in interest.

After his announcement, the judge called attorneys in the case into his chambers. Neuheisel and other principals in the case were not immediately available for comment.

Neuheisel had accused the university of wrongfully terminating his contract and the NCAA of encouraging Washington administrators to fire him.

The university had argued that he had signed a contract that allowed for his firing for acts of dishonesty. School officials have said Neuheisel was fired for gambling on an NCAA basketball pool and failing to be forthcoming about it with NCAA investigators.

Last week, Spearman left open the possibility of declaring a mis-

trial because the NCAA had failed to provide Neuheisel's legal team with an updated version of its bylaws during discovery. In a statement Monday, the university said it agreed to settle because a mistrial could be declared.

The updated bylaws seem to bolster Neuheisel's argument that NCAA investigators acted improperly when they failed to tell him in advance that they planned to question him regarding his gambling.

## Warner agrees with Cardinals

PHOENIX — Kurt Warner agreed Sunday to a one-year, \$4 million contract with the Arizona Cardinals, the two-time MVP's third team in three seasons.

The 33-year-old quarterback, who lost his starting job with the Giants to rookie Eli Manning last season, is to sign the contract and appear at a news conference in Arizona on Tuesday.

Warner was a three-time Pro Bowl selection with the St. Louis Rams. He led the Rams to the Super Bowl in 1999 and 2001, losing Tennessee's one winning MVP in the 2000 game.

But after losing the starting job to Marc Bulger in St. Louis, he

signed a one-year deal with the Giants before last season.

Warner has made it clear that he expects to be a starter.

## RB Johnson signs with Bengals

CINCINNATI — Running back Rudi Johnson signed a one-year, \$6.3 million contract Monday to stay with the Cincinnati Bengals.

Johnson, who set a Bengals single-season rushing record last season with 1,454 yards, is still free to negotiate a long-term contract with the team, and he says he wants to do that.

Johnson became a free agent March 2, but the Bengals designated him their franchise player, meaning they could retain him by matching any offer sheet he signed with another team.

The deal allows the Bengals to keep Johnson while they see whether Chris Perry, their top draft choice in 2004, will develop into their running back of the future. Perry was sidelined much of his rookie season by injuries.

## Sullivan finalists announced

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps, Carly Patterson and Paul

Hamm, and Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart were among the 10 finalists announced Monday for the Sullivan Award, given to the nation's top amateur athlete.

Phelps, last year's Sullivan winner, captured six golds and two bronzes at the Athens Olympics, matching the record for most medals won at a single Games.

Patterson, of Allen, Texas, was the first U.S. woman to win the Olympic all-around title since Mary Lou Retton. She also won silver medals in the team competition and on the balance beam, and was the USOC's SportsWoman of the Year.

Hamm was the Olympic U.S. man to win the Olympic all-around.

Leinart led Southern California to an undefeated season and its second straight national title.

Other finalists are: Jeremy Wariner (track) Elisei Au (karate); Natalie Coughlin (swimming); Steven Lopez (taekwondo); Cand Sanderson (wrestling); and Andre Ward (boxing). Online voting at the USA Today Web site will help determine the winner, who will be announced April 13 in New York.

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# Confident Smoltz makes transition back to starter

The Associated Press

John Smoltz threw the first pitch of a game instead of its last for the first time since 2001. Kevin Brown made his first pain-free start since signing with the Yankees before last season.

After three stellar years as Atlanta's closer, Smoltz made a triumphant return to the starting rotation and pitched two scoreless innings Sunday during the Braves' 8-7 victory over a New York Mets split squad in Kissimmee, Fla.

"Same Smoltzie," manager Bobby Cox said. "Just got to build up some endurance, that's all. He's going to fit right in with all the other starters."

The 1996 Cy Young winner allowed two soft singles and struck out one against a watered-down Mets lineup. It was an impressive spring debut, especially for a 37-year-old pitcher who was switched to the bullpen after three elbow operations — the Braves thought the move would prolong his career.

"It's funny how Randy Johnson's not old, Roger Clemens is not old, but a guy who's had major surgeries become old real quick," Smoltz said. "It's not an experiment. It's not something I haven't done before. But I understand the magnitude of what it could be."

At Tampa, Fla., Brown struggled through the first inning, allowing a run and three hits. Then he made some adjustments and followed with two scoreless innings in New York's 6-5 loss to the Cincinnati Reds.

"At least I felt like I was moving OK. I didn't feel it was locked up. It wasn't an issue," Brown said.

Brown's health could be a major factor for the Yankees. He almost didn't feel right all of last year in going 10-6 with a 4.09 ERA, and the former All-Star missed most of September when he punched a wall and broke his left hand. Then he was shelled by the Boston Red Sox in Game 7 of the ALCS.

## Spring training

He threw 53 pitches against the Reds, allowing four hits and two walks with four strikeouts.

"I loved what I saw," catcher Jorge Posada said.

Gary Sheffield, another injured Yankees star, made his debut.

Sheffield, recovering from an offseason operation on his left shoulder, went 2-for-3 with a left field RBI single. The Yankees started their regular lineup for the first time this year — an All-Star at every position.

"Just to know that you can play a baseball game without feeling the agony or the pain I had last year, I can't really explain it," Sheffield said. "I just know when I'm healthy what I can do."

In other games:

**Red Sox 5, Phillies 4:** At Fort Myers, Fla., Hanley Ramirez, Boston's top minor leaguer, started a triple play in the top of the sixth inning. Boston's new shortstop, Edgar Renteria, homered off Amaury Telemaco. Randy Wolf, limited to 23 starts last year by tendinitis in his left elbow, allowed three hits in two scoreless innings in his first start of spring training.

**Cardinals 5, Marlins 1:** At Jupiter, Fla., A.J. Burnett allowed four runs in two innings for Florida. Cardinals starter Chris Carpenter hit a two-run double and allowed two hits in three innings, striking out two. Jim Edmonds hit an RBI single for St. Louis.

**Indians 2, Tigers 2 (10):** At Winter Haven, Fla., C.C. Sabathia was scratched from his start because he strained a right abdominal muscle while warming up. The left-hander was replaced by Cliff Lee, who allowed one hit and struck out two in two scoreless innings. Chris Shelton had three of the Tigers' seven hits.

**National (ss) 9, Astros 4:** At Viera, Fla., Washington's Zach Day made his first start in seven months, hitting the game's first

batter and allowing two solo homers. Brad Wilkerson homered for the second straight game for the Nationals.

**Mets (ss) 14, Nationals (ss) 5:** At Port St. Lucie, Victor Zambrano gave up three hits and two runs in 2 1-3 innings for New York. Jose Reyes finished 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs, two runs scored and a stolen base.

Nationals starter Mike Hincley gave up six runs — five earned — and eight hits in two innings.

**Devil Rays 5, Pirates 3:** At St. Petersburg, Fla., Tampa Bay's Aubrey Huff had an RBI double, scored a run and caught a drive by Ty Wigginton against the left-field wall to preserve a tie. Ryan Vogelsong allowed three runs in three innings for Pittsburgh.

**Giants 10, Cubs 1:** At Scottsdale, Ariz., Omar Vizquel homered and singled for his first hits in a San Francisco uniform. Cubs starter Jimmy Anderson gave up five singles and three runs in the first inning.

**Rangers 16, Rockies 1:** At Tucson, Ariz., Texas prospect Adrian Gonzalez hit his second home run of spring training, this one off Shawn Chacon, who is moving back to the starting rotation after a difficult year as Colorado's closer. He allowed three runs and three hits and threw a wild pitch in two innings.

**Orioles 4, Dodgers 2:** Vero Beach, Fla., Scott Erickson, making a bid for the No. 5 spot in the Angels' rotation, pitched three innings of no-hit ball. Orioles starter Rodrigo Lopez also pitched three shutout innings in his first start of spring training.

**Padres 9, Mariners 6 (10):** At Peoria, Ariz., Xavier Nady and Jesse Garcia hit San Diego's first homers of the spring. Ichiro Suzuki and Randy Winn had RBI triples for Seattle.

**Brewers 9, Royals 6:** At Surprise, Ariz., Carlos Lee hit two home runs and drove in two runs for Milwaukee. Prince Fielder



Atlanta Braves' John Smoltz works against the New York Mets in a spring training game in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on Sunday.

went 3-for-3 and drove in three runs. Rick Helling, who spent all of last season in the minors, pitched two shutout innings for the Brewers.

Kansas City's Zack Greinke allowed seven runs and seven hits — four for extra bases.

**Angels 17, Athletics 4:** At Phoenix, Casey Kotchman had a two-run double among his five RBIs. Bartolo Colon, making his first start of the spring for Los Angeles, struck out two in two innings. He gave up a run and two hits.

**Blue Jays 6, Twins 5:** At Dunc-

edin, Fla., 2004 Cy Young winner Johan Santana allowed a hit in two innings for Minnesota. The 2003 winner, Roy Halladay, gave up two runs and four hits for Toronto. The Twins' Todd Dunwoody had three hits, including a double and solo homer off Halladay.

**Diamondbacks 8, White Sox 3:** At Tucson, Ariz., Javier Vazquez threw three strong innings for Arizona, giving up one run and two hits while striking out three.

Fellow newcomer Troy Glaus drove in a pair of runs.

Jermaine Dye hit his first homer as a member of the White Sox.

# Selig: No changes to record book for suspected steroid use

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Steroids or not, baseball's record book won't be changing.

Commissioner Bud Selig said Sunday that no records will be taken away from players suspected of steroid use.

"That would be unfair to do that," Selig said. "We will not take away a game between the Oakland Athletics and Los Angeles Angels." In fairness, to those players, no one has been convicted of anything. And we can't turn history back.

"My job is to protect the integrity of the game. Each era, each decade has had situations where people said there were unfair advantages."

Also Sunday, Rep. Tom Davis confirmed reports that the House Government Reform Committee is prepared to subpoena players and officials who turn down invitations to appear at a March 17 hearing on baseball's steroids policy.

Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, Jimmy Gonzalez, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro, Frank Thomas, Selig and union head Donald Fehr are among those who have been invited, along with baseball executive vice president Sandy Alderson and San Diego general manager Kevin Towers.

"We'll use the subpoena to get them there if that's what we have to do," Davis, the committee chairman, told CBS News.

**Schmidt: Other factors boosting HRs**  
FORT MYERS, Fla. — Mike Schmidt refused to blame steroids for the increase in

home runs in the major leagues — or for his diminishing stature on the career homer list.

"Leave steroids out of it," Schmidt said Sunday. "There's a simple explanation why the home run totals are what they are, and the guys that are hitting would agree with me — it's park size, hard baseballs and hard hitting."

Since the Hall of Fame third baseman retired in 1989 with the seventh-most home runs (548), he has been passed by four players — Barry Bonds (703), Mark McGwire (583), Sammy Sosa (574) and Rafael Palmeiro (551).

Schmidt estimates the smaller ballpark and the equipment help elite power hitters add 10-12 home runs more per season than those of his generation.

## Indians' Miller out until June

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — Pitcher Adam Miller, regarded as the Cleveland Indians' top prospect, will be sidelined until at least June with a strained right elbow.

An MRI exam showed a strained ligament in his throwing arm, and he won't be allowed to throw for six weeks. Another MRI then will be taken to determine if he can be cleared for a four-to-six week throwing program, said John Farrell, the team's director of player development.

Farrell said Sunday surgery does not appear likely.

Miller, drafted in the first round in 2003, went a combined 10-6 at two levels of Class A ball in 2004. The 20-year-old right-hander's fastball was timed at 100 mph last summer with Kingston in the Carolina League championship series.

MLB  
briefs

# Tiger outduels Lefty, reclaims No. 1

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Tiger Woods returned to No. 1 in the world Sunday.

Phil Mickelson made him earn it.

In a titanic battle on the Blue Monster before a sellout crowd, Woods made a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th, then held his breath as the resilient Mickelson nearly chipped in for birdie on the final hole. After four hours of dramatic shifts in momentum and thunderous cheers, Woods ended a spectacular duel with a 6-foot par putt.

That gave him a 6-under par for a one-shot victory in the Ford Championship at Doral, putting Woods back at No. 1 in the world rankings for the first time since September.

"What a day," Woods said in utter relief. "If you're not nervous on a day like this, you're not alive."

Mickelson was alive and kicking.

After Woods carried a 3-wood some 290 yards to set up an eagle on the par-5 12th and take the lead for the first time, Lefty answered with back-to-back birdies. Needing a birdie to force a playoff, and possibly win on the 18th, his 30-foot chip was good until the final inch, when it tailed to the right and caught the lip.

"I'm a little ticked at myself for not getting it done," Mickelson said after his 69. "I knew I was playing well enough to win. I believe I should have won, certainly could have won. And I just hope I have another shot soon. I hope that the next time we play, we both play well again and get in the last group. Because this was fun competing against him."

Woods, who earned \$990,000 for his second victory of the year, finished at 24-under 264 to break by one shot the tournament record at Doral, previously held by Jim Furyk (2000) and Greg Norman (1993). This is the sixth PGA Tour event in which Woods has at least a share of the 72-hole record.

Vijay Singh, who had been No. 1 the last 26 weeks after beating Woods in a Labor Day duel outside Boston, closed with a 66 to finish third, five shots behind, along with Zach Johnson (67).



Phil Mickelson flinches in agony after he just missed a chip shot on No. 18 that would have tied Tiger Woods for the lead in the Ford Championship at Doral. Woods, right, pumps his fist on the 17th green after making a 30-foot birdie putt to take the lead for good during the final round.



AP photos

Mickelson's streak of 10 consecutive rounds shot the leaderboard ended, but not without a gutsy fight.

Most players would have buckled when Woods surged into the lead with a 25-foot eagle putt, followed by an uppercut full of emotion.

Mickelson came right back at him. He birdied the next two holes to regain a share of the lead, and was poised to beat Woods until missing two short putts — a 10-footer for birdie on No. 15 and a 5-footer for par on No. 16 after Woods had failed to get up and down from the bunker.

It was the first time in a combined 67 holes either of them had made a bogey. They performed at such a high level that each made 27 birdies this week, a career high for both.

"We both played really good golf," Woods said.

And with some 35,000 fans already exhausted of emotion, Mickelson kept them on their toes with a 30-foot chip that briefly dipped into the cup on the 18th before spinning out.

"From where I was looking, that thing was center cut," Woods said.

It was only the third time Woods and Mickelson have played against each other in the final round, and Woods has won them all.

The other two times were the 2001 Masters, in which Woods had a one-shot lead, and the 2003 Buick Invitational, in which Woods was two ahead of Mickelson.

It might not be the last time. Woods and Mickelson have won victories each this year, and are clearly playing better than anyone as big tournaments loom, including the start of the majors.

"With all the feelings I have about losing today, this was probably the best thing that could have happened to me heading into the majors," Mickelson said. "I just knew I was going to win today and when I didn't, it was a real slap in the face. Because I'm going to work my tail off to salvage a couple more shots."

"When I come back to The Players Championship and the Masters, I'm going to be ready."

Both players had their chances. Woods missed back-to-back birdie putts from 8 feet early in the round, but a pivotal hole came at the par-3 fourth.

Mickelson stuffed his tee shot into 5 feet, while Woods' tee shot bounded off the side of the hill and was saved by thick rough from going into the water. He chipped some 10 feet by, and it looked as though Mickelson would double his lead. Instead,

Woods made a tricky par putt and Mickelson missed his birdie try.

One hole later, Woods nicked the flag with his approach and made a 4-foot birdie. They matched shots the rest of the way, both of them twice missing birdie putts inside 12 feet.

The gallery soaked up every shot.

Every patch of grass was covered by fans from tee to green. They stood as many as six-deep around the shots, lined every path to the next tee box cheering as both walked by, the kind of atmosphere rarely seen except in major championships.

"It was electric," Woods said. "It was definitely bipartisan out there. You could hear Phil's fans, you could hear Tiger's fans. They were both yelling at the top of their lungs. When we got to the tee box, my ears were ringing."

Mickelson and Woods kept them in suspense to the very end.

## Sorenstam picks up where she left off — on top of LPGA

BY JASON LANGE

The Associated Press

HUIXQUILUCAN, Mexico — Annika Sorenstam made another big statement to her LPGA Tour rivals in her first tournament of the year.

"I wanted everybody to know that I'm ready to play and ready to go," Sorenstam said Sunday after rallying to win the inaugural MasterCard Classic.

Also playing for the first time since filing for divorce from David Esch, the Swedish star shot a 4-under 68 in windy conditions for a three-stroke victory.

"I've been in this position before, and what I've learned over the years is that

you've just got to play your own game," said Sorenstam, three strokes behind leader Cristie Kerr after the second round.

Sorenstam finished at 7-under 209 and earned \$180,000 for her 57th LPGA Tour title. Last year, she won eight tour events — including the season-ending ADT Championship in her last start in November — and two international titles.

On Sunday, Sorenstam had eight birdies — five in a row on Nos. 2-6 — to offset four bogeys on the high-altitude Bosque Real Country Club course.

Karrie Webb shot a 70 to finish second in the first LPGA Tour event in Mexico since 1975.

"I struggled a little bit with feeling com-

fortable out there today," Webb said.

Kerr stumbled with a 75 to match South Korea's Hee-Won Han (71) at 3 under, and Mexican star Lorena Ochoa (68) rallied to finish fifth at 2 under. Rookie Paula Creamer (68) and Michelle Redman (72) were 1 under.

The wind kicked up to 20 mph in the afternoon, complicating long approaches on the course overlooking the 7,400-foot-high Mexican capital.

"The wind was gusting tremendously," Sorenstam said.

After her run of five straight birdies, Sorenstam bogeyed three consecutive holes. On No. 9, she hit over the green and into a water hazard.

"I was trying to play aggressive," she said. "I hit a 5-iron and it just seems like the wind took it and it went way too far."

But she had little trouble turning things around, adding three birdies on the back nine en route to her 18th career comeback victory.

Hundreds of fans followed Ochoa throughout the tournament, and she said the extra attention made things tough some of the time.

But the 23-year-old star said she was happy that her strong performance Sunday was good enough for a fifth-place finish. She had seven birdies, a bogey and a double bogey on 16, where she said she "misjudged the wind."

## Men's conference tournament scoreboard

## America East

**Friday, March 4**  
 Mid-Baltimore Co. 76, New Hampshire 73  
 Stony Brook 66, Albany 59  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Binghamton 70, Albany 60  
 Vermont 76, Boston University 61  
 UConn 69, Stony Brook 60  
 Maine 47, Middlebury 45  
**Sunday, March 6**  
 Vermont 76, Binghamton 59  
 Northeastern 69, Middlebury 58  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Northeastern at Vermont

## Atlantic Coast

**Thursday, March 10**  
 Maryland vs. Clemson  
 North Carolina St. vs. Florida St.  
 Miami vs. Wake Forest  
**Friday, March 11**  
 North Carolina vs. Maryland/Clemson  
 Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech  
 Wake Forest vs. N.C. State/Florida St.  
 Duke vs. Miami/Virginia  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Semifinals  
**Sunday, March 13**  
 Championship

## Atlantic Sun

**Thursday, March 3**  
 Gardner-Webb 64, Troy 62  
 Central Florida 81, Mercer 68  
 Belmont 67, Georgia State 61  
 Jacksonville 66, Lipscomb 61  
**Friday, March 4**  
 Gardner-Webb 77, Jacksonville 76  
 Central Florida 80, Belmont 67  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Central Florida 63, Gardner-Webb 54

## Atlantic 10

**Wednesday, March 9**  
 Richmond vs. Rhode Island  
 Massachusetts vs. La Salle  
 Fordham vs. Duquesne  
 Dayton vs. St. Bonaventure  
**Thursday, March 10**  
 Saint Joseph's vs. Richmond/Rhode Island  
 Saint vs. Massachusetts/La Salle  
 Georgetown vs. Fordham/Duquesne  
 Temple vs. Dayton/St. Bonaventure  
**Friday, March 11**  
 Semifinals  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Championship

## Big East

**Wednesday, March 9**  
 West Virginia vs. Providence  
 Georgetown vs. Seton Hall  
 Notre Dame vs. Rutgers  
**Thursday, March 10**  
 Boston College vs. W. Virginia/Providence  
 Kentucky vs. Pittsburgh  
 Connecticut vs. Georgetown/Seton Hall  
 Syracuse vs. Purdue/Boston College  
**Friday, March 11**  
 Semifinals  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Championship

## Big Sky

**Saturday, March 5**  
 Montana 58, Eastern Washington 49  
 Weber State 74, Sacramento State 71  
**Tuesday, March 8**  
 Montana State 71  
 Portland State vs. Weber St.  
**Wednesday, March 9**  
 Championship

## Big South

**Tuesday, March 1**  
 Charleston Southern 66, Coker 60  
 High Point 88, N.C. Asheville 93 OT  
 Wofford 74, Coastal Carolina 66  
 Birmingham-Southern 69, Radford 40  
 Wofford 79, Birmingham-Southern 54  
**Thursday, March 3**  
 Charleston Southern 58, High Point 55  
 Wofford 79, Birmingham-Southern 46  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Championship

## Big Ten

**Thursday, March 10**  
 Northwestern vs. Michigan  
 Iowa vs. Purdue  
 Wisconsin vs. Penn State  
**Friday, March 11**  
 Illinois vs. Northwestern/Michigan  
 Minnesota vs. Indiana  
 Wisconsin vs. Ohio State/Penn State  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Semifinals  
**Sunday, March 13**  
 Championship

## Big 12

**Thursday, March 10**  
 Missouri 70, Nebraska 60  
 Iowa State vs. Baylor  
 Texas A&M vs. Kansas State  
 Texas Tech vs. Colorado  
**Friday, March 11**  
 Oklahoma vs. Missouri/Penn State  
 Texas Tech vs. Iowa State  
 Kansas vs. Texas A&M/Kansas State  
 Oklahoma State vs. Texas Tech  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Semifinals  
**Sunday, March 13**  
 Championship

## Big West

**Wednesday, March 9**  
 UC Irvine vs. Idaho  
 Long Beach State vs. Santa Barbara  
**Thursday, March 10**  
 Cal Fullerton vs. Lower Merion  
 Cal Northridge vs. higher-seeded winner  
**Friday, March 11**  
 Semifinals  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Championships

## Colonial Athletic

**Friday, March 4**  
 William & Mary 68, James Madison 54  
 Old Dominion 66, William & Mary 51  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Old Dominion 74, Delaware 61  
 Hofstra 89, Drexel 77  
 N.C. Wilmington 60, George Mason 47  
**Sunday, March 6**  
 Old Dominion 72, Hofstra 58  
 vs. Commonwealth College vs. N.C. Wilmington 45  
**Monday, March 7**  
 Old Dominion vs. VA. Commonwealth

## Conference USA

**Thursday, March 9**  
 Texas Christian vs. Marquette  
 DePaul vs. Tulane  
 Memphis vs. Saint Louis  
 Houston vs. South Florida  
**Friday, March 10**  
 Louisville vs. TCU/Marquette  
 Alabama-Birmingham vs. DePaul/Tulane  
 Charlotte vs. Memphis/Saint Louis  
 Charlotte vs. Houston/South Florida  
**Saturday, March 11**  
 Semifinals  
**Sunday, March 12**  
 Championship

## Horizon League

**Tuesday, March 1**  
 Wright 83, Butler 57  
 Loyola of Chicago 79, Youngstown St. 75  
 Illinois 64, Cleveland 65  
**Friday, March 4**  
 Detroit 61, Wright 58  
 Loyola of Chicago 61, Ill.-Chicago 81  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Detroit 61, Wisc. Green Bay 59  
 Wis.-Milwaukee 94, Loyola of Chicago 76  
**Friday, March 4**  
 Championship

## Metro Atlantic

**Friday, March 4**  
 Canisius 68, Siena 53  
 Cortland 63, Marist 60  
 Manhattan 88, Loyola, Md. 67  
 St. Peter's 73  
 Rider 79, Caldwell 60  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Fairfield 62, Manhattan 60  
 Niagara 69, Iona 67  
 Rider 76, Fairfield 74  
**Monday, March 7**  
 Championship

## Mid-American

**Monday, March 7**  
 Marshall at Ohio  
 Central Michigan at Kent State  
 Eastern Michigan at Akron  
 Northern Illinois at Buffalo  
 Ball State at Cleveland  
**Thursday, March 10**  
 Toledo vs. Northern Illinois/Akron  
 W. Michigan vs. E. Michigan/Akron  
 Miami (Ohio) vs. Ball State/Bowling Green  
 Ohio/Marshall vs. Kent State/C. Michigan  
**Friday, March 11**  
 Semifinals  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Championship

## Mid-Continent

**Saturday, March 5**  
 Oral Roberts 82, Southern 59  
 Oakland, Mich. 67, Mo.-Kansas City 54  
**Monday, March 7**  
 IUPUI-Indianapolis 70, W. Illinois 62  
 Chicago State 72, Valparaiso 54  
**Tuesday, March 8**  
 Oral Roberts vs. IUPUI-Indianapolis  
 Oakland, Mich. vs. Chicago 52  
**Thursday, March 10**  
 Championship

## Mid-Eastern Athletic

**Monday, March 7**  
 Morgan St. vs. Mid.-Eastern Athletic  
 Florida A&M vs. Howard  
**Tuesday, March 8**  
 Bethune-Cookman vs. North Carolina A&T  
 Delaware St. vs. lowest-seeded winner  
 Hampton vs. middle-seeded winner  
**Thursday, March 10**  
 South Carolina vs. Southern  
 Coppin vs. lowest-seeded winner  
**Friday, March 11**  
 Semifinals  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Championship

## Missouri Valley

**Friday, March 4**  
 Indiana 82, Bradley 51  
 Drake 62, Bradley 51  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Southern Illinois 64, 49  
 Southwest Missouri 70, Northern Iowa 62  
 Indiana St. 72, Drake 69  
 Creighton 69, Illinois 52  
**Sunday, March 6**  
 SW Missouri 65, Southern Illinois 61  
 Creighton 69, Illinois 52  
**Monday, March 7**  
 SW Missouri vs. Creighton

## Mountain West

**Thursday, March 10**  
 UNLV vs. Wyoming  
 New Mexico vs. Brigham Young  
 Air Force vs. San Diego St.  
**Friday, March 11**  
 Utah/Colorado State vs. UNLV/Wyoming  
 Fresno State vs. Air Force/San Diego St.  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Championships

## Northeast

**Monday, March 3**  
 Monmouth, N.J. 54, C. Connecticut 53  
 Fairleigh Dickinson 51, St. Francis, N.Y. 60  
 Wagner 69, Robert Morris 65

Long Island U. 76, St. Francis, Pa. 67  
 Wagner 63, Monmouth 51  
 Fairleigh Dickinson 70, Long Island U. 62

## Ohio Valley

**Tuesday, March 8**  
 Tennessee Tech 72, Eastern Illinois 68  
 Austin Peay 71, Sanford 50  
 Eastern Kentucky 74, Tennessee St. 68  
 Southeast Missouri 63, Murray St. 58  
**Friday, March 4**  
 Austin Peay 67, Tennessee St. 58  
 Eastern Kentucky 69, SE Missouri 52  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Championship

## Pac-10

**Thursday, March 10**  
 Arizona vs. California  
 UCLA vs. Oregon State  
 Washington vs. Arizona State  
 Stanford vs. Washington State  
**Friday, March 11**  
 Semifinals  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Championship

## Patriot

**Friday, March 4**  
 Lehigh 77, Colgate 50  
 South-Central Florida 82, Army 42  
 American 88, Navy 83 OT  
 Boston 70, Lafayette 34  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Holy Cross 57, Lehigh 58  
 Bucknell 53, American 35  
**Friday, March 4**  
 Championship

## Southeastern

**Thursday, March 10**  
 South Carolina vs. Mississippi  
 Mississippi State vs. Georgia  
 Arkansas vs. Tennessee  
 Vanderbilt vs. Auburn  
**Friday, March 11**  
 Alabama vs. South Carolina/Mississippi  
 Florida vs. Mississippi State/Georgia  
 Kentucky vs. Arkansas/Tennessee  
 LSU vs. Vanderbilt  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Championship

## Southern

**Wednesday, March 2**  
 Elon 64, Wofford 56  
 Wake Forest 66, Virginia 50  
 App State 66, Furman 64  
**Thursday, March 3**  
 Davidson 67, Clemson 59  
 N.C.-Greensboro 73, Georgia Southern 71  
 Charleston 66, App State 66  
 Appalachian St. 63, Charleston 60  
 N.C.-Greensboro 77, Davidson 68  
 Chattanooga 66, N.C.-Greensboro 51  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Chattanooga 66, N.C.-Greensboro 52

## Southland

**Thursday, March 8**  
 Texas-Arlington at Texas-San Antonio (L.A.) St.  
 Texas State at Texas-San Antonio  
 McNeese St. at Sam Houston  
 Lamar at Texas-San Antonio  
**Friday, March 9**  
 Semifinals  
**Sunday, March 13**  
 Championship

## Southwestern Athletic

**Thursday, March 10**  
 Grambling vs. Southern  
 Alabama St. vs. Prairie View A&M  
 Mississippi Valley vs. Jackson St.  
 Alabama A&M vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff  
**Friday, March 11**  
 Semifinals  
**Sunday, March 13**  
 Championship

## Sun Belt

**Friday, March 4**  
 Fla. International 61, Texas-Arlington 57  
 Arkansas 74, North Texas 76  
 Middle Tennessee 72, New Orleans 63  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Fla. International 67, Arkansas 64  
 Denver 64, Arkansas 57  
**Sunday, March 6**  
 Western Kentucky 78, New Orleans 67  
 Middle Tennessee 72, La-Lafayette  
**Monday, March 7**  
 Denver vs. La-Lafayette  
**Tuesday, March 8**  
 Championship

## West Coast

**Friday, March 4**  
 Pepperdine 81, Loyola Marymount 79  
 San Francisco 65, Portland 60  
 San Diego 86, Pepperdine 80  
 Santa Clara 67, Santa Clara 67  
**Saturday, March 5**  
 Gonzaga 90, Pepperdine 84  
 Santa Clara 67, La Clara 64  
**Monday, March 7**  
 Gonzaga vs. St. Mary's, Calif.

## Western Athletic

**Tuesday, March 8**  
 Hawaii vs. San Jose State  
 Boise State vs. Tulsa  
**Wednesday, March 9**  
 Boise State vs. Utah  
 Nevada vs. Southern Methodist  
 Nevada vs. Boise State/Tulsa  
**Thursday, March 10**  
 Semifinals  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Championship

# It's two shots at the key as Wake beats N.C. State

BY AARON BEARD

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Chris Paul's first-half shot nearly overshadowed his last-second basket to beat North Carolina State.

The sophomore hit a buzzer-beating runner to lift fourth-ranked Wake Forest just the North Carolina State SS-53 on Sunday night, keeping the Demon Deacons in contention for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

But Paul also faced plenty of questions afterward about his low blow to Wolfpack star Julius Hodge.

Either way, the feisty point guard was the center of attention. Paul finished with nine points and six assists for the Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3 Atlantic Coast Conference), who have won 10 of 11 and tied school records for victories overall and in the league.

With the Wolfpack (17-12, 7-9) leading SS-50, Justin Gray nailed a tying three-pointer right in front of the Wake Forest bench with 12.8 seconds left.

Paul then tried to answer, but his hurried three-pointer fell well short of the rim and out of bounds, giving the Demon Deacons possession with 4.2 seconds left.

Paul did the rest. He inbounded the ball to Vytas Danielius, who sent it right back. Paul then weaved through the rotation. Wolfpack defenders, bounced off a bump from Atsur and launched a fadeaway shot from about 12 feet.

The ball swished through the net at the horn, sending the Demon Deacons onto the court for a celebration — and giving Paul the last word on a tasty night in Raleigh.

In a play that set the tone the rest of the night, Paul gave Hodge a harsh parting gift on senior night, hitting him with a low blow during a battle underneath the basket. Hodge, the reigning ACC player of the year, fell to the court with 12-48 left in the first half.

With Hodge down, his older brother, Steve, walked onto the court to see if Julius was OK — and to yell toward Paul on the Wake Forest bench. Steve Hodge walked off the court, and arena security soon instructed him to leave the court area.

Once Hodge got up, he angrily yelled and gestured toward the Demon Deacons' sideline on his way back to the bench.

"I don't believe I popped him," Paul said. "It was just the heat of the game. I've got too much respect for him to try to pop him on senior night."

Told that replays showed him hitting Hodge, Paul responded, "I haven't seen the replay."

N.C. State's Julius Hodge (24) and Wake Forest's Chris Paul contest a rebound late in Sunday night's game. Wake won 55-53.

From the league for the blow. Hodge mentioned his suspension as a freshman for an elbow he threw against Maryland's Steve Blake, which was caught on film and led to a one-game suspension.

"He punched me in the groin and the ref saw it," Hodge said. "I got suspended for that (as a freshman)... I never play dirty like that."

Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser said he didn't see the incident. N.C. State coach Herb Sendek said he had reviewed replays of the incident, but declined comment.

"I think the replay is going to have a few minutes for me tonight," he said.

A few minutes after returning to the game, Hodge was whistled for a technical foul when he gave Paul a shove after he was fouled in the post.

From there, Paul was booted loudly every time he touched the ball, and N.C. State fans began chanting "Dirty Deacons."

Wake Forest shot just 29 percent in the second half, going without an field goal for 10 minutes, but he pulled it out on high shots by Paul and Gray.

And on the same day that No. 1 Illinois, No. 3 Kentucky, No. 6 Duke and No. 7 Kansas lost, the Demon Deacons saw an opportunity.

"We thought that might've opened the door a little bit more (for a No. 1 seed) and gave us a chance right here to make a move up," said Gray, who had 15 points.

Eric Ertimov scored 19 points to lead N.C. State, which is trying for its fourth straight NCAA bid.



# Closing the deal

## Down nine in the closing minutes, North Carolina scores the last 11 points to top Duke for ACC title

By KEITH PARSONS  
The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina's players and coaches took turns at the top of a ladder, celebrating an Atlantic Coast Conference title by cutting down the nets.

While certainly not unprecedented, the scene was a bit surreal for the end of the regular season.

"I'm big on letting kids celebrate," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said. "We will be criticized for it. Somebody's not going to like it and that's just part of it. I think it's OK in college athletics to let kids celebrate."

Williams did the same for the majority of his nine conference titles at Kansas, and needed only two seasons to bring the tradition to North Carolina.

Freshman Marvin Williams converted a three-point play with 17 seconds left to cap an 11-0 game-closing run and give the second-ranked Tar Heels a 75-73 victory over No. 6 Duke on Sunday.

North Carolina (26-3, 14-2), playing without the ill Rashad McCants for the fourth straight game, won its first ACC regular-season championship since 1993, which was also the last time the Tar Heels won a national championship.

"It's been a long journey," said senior Jackie Manuel, one of three players left from a team that lost 20 of 28 games three years ago. "To be honest, I didn't really know if we could do it. You really appreciate the highs when you've been at the bottom and seen the worst."

Sean May had 26 points and 24 rebounds, and none was more important than that last rebound.

After J.J. Redick missed a long three-point attempt that would have won it for the Blue Devils, teammate Daniel Ewing had a final chance from just inside the arc.

His shot was short, and May

*"I'm big on letting kids celebrate. We will be criticized for it. Somebody's not going to like it and that's just part of it. I think it's OK in college athletics to let kids celebrate."*

Roy Williams  
North Carolina coach

leaped high for the carom. He cradled the ball in his hand while the clock ran out, then hurled it into the stands. Hundreds of the 22,125 fans — the largest crowd ever at the Dean E. Smith Center — rushed the court to celebrate only the third Tar Heels victory over their Tobacco Road rival in the past 16 meetings.

"I've never experienced anything like that, and it's something I'll never forget for the rest of my life," May said. "For me, it feels good, because I've never beaten them. Finally, to get an opportunity, it feels good."

Shelden Williams had 25 points and six blocks for Duke (22-5, 11-5), which played without guard Sean Dockery for the third straight game. Redick scored all 17 of his points in the first half.

"We have to close the chapter to this book, the regular season, and our guys were in every ball game," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "I'm proud of them."

The Blue Devils broke from a tie at 64 with a 9-0 run capped by a three-pointer by Lee Melchionni with 3:07 left. That was his fifth three-pointer of the second half.

"I love the competitiveness of our team when we were down nine inside three minutes," Roy Williams said. "I told them that if they were to make a total commitment to every possession on the defensive end and every possession on the offensive end, we would still have a chance still at the end."

Jawad Williams stopped the Tar Heels' drought with a tip-in and Marvin Williams added two free throws to make it 73-68. On the other end, DeMarcus Nelson missed the front end of a 1-and-1, and May powered inside for a three-point play to cut the margin to two.

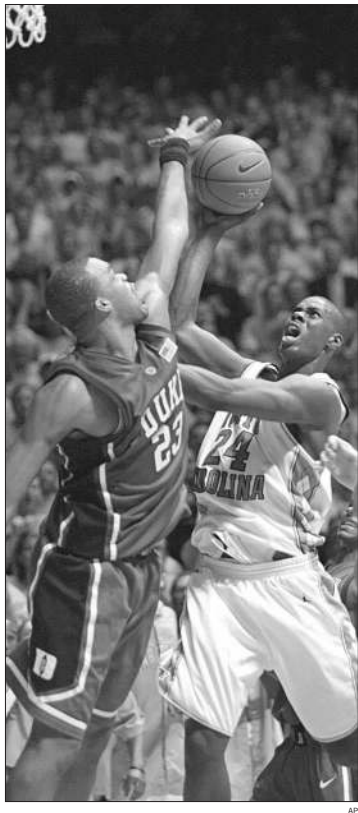
"We played hard and pushed hard for the majority of the second half," Shelden Williams said. "All of a sudden, we got a little cushion and laid off some, and had a few turnovers. Carolina was able to convert on those and get the momentum."

Later, North Carolina point guard Raymond Felton had a chance to tie it, but his runner from the lane rattled around the rim before bouncing out. Then Ewing, the lone senior on the court for the Blue Devils, lost the ball near midcourt, and Felton grabbed it and quickly called a timeout with 27 seconds left.

"That was probably the play of the game," May said. Felton drove to the basket and was fouled by Nelson. He swished the first free throw to make it 73-72.

His second rebound off the rim, and after a brief scramble for the ball, Marvin Williams grabbed it and quickly shot over Duke walk-on Patrick Johnson. The shot banked in as he was fouled, and his free throw capped the furious rally.

"You've got to have the mentality to 'bear down,'" Melchionni said. "We shot one free throw in the last three minutes with a nine-point lead, and that's unacceptable. You can't do that and win a game."



North Carolina's Marvin Williams, right, gets off the game-winning shot over Duke's Shelden Williams on Sunday. North Carolina won 75-73.

# Florida's long wait is over after beating Kentucky

The Associated Press

GAINEVILLE, Fla. — After coming up empty eight times, Florida's David Lee was finally able to enjoy a victory over Kentucky.

The senior forward jumped on a court-side table while the rest of his team celebrated the Gators' 53-52 upset on Sunday, the outcome sealed by Anthony Roberson's two free throws with 15 seconds remaining.

"That was four years in the making right there," Lee said.

Florida ended an eight-game losing streak against the Southeastern Conference bully and probably ended the third-ranked Wildcats' hopes of getting a top seed in the NCAA tournament.

## Men's Top 25 Roundup

"It was the greatest win of my life," the Gators' Matt Walsh said.

Roberson, the league's leading scorer, stripped the ball from Patrick Sparks with about 12 seconds to play and Florida trailing 52-51.

Sparks compounded his miscue by fouling Roberson, an 88 percent free-throw shooter who calmly converted both shots. He finished with 21 points.

Kentucky (23-4, 14-2) still had a chance to win, but managed only Kellen Anderson's off-balanced three-pointer that bounced off the left side of the rim and into Walsh's hands.

Then the celebration began.

Florida (20-7, 12-4) last beat the Wildcats in March 2001. The Gators have come close, losing the last three at home by a combined seven points, but had been unable to get over the hurdle.

The "Big Three" changed that Sunday.

Lee, the team's lone senior who was honored before his final home game, had lost all eight previous meetings against Kentucky. Walsh and Roberson were 0-6.

"It's taken three years for me to win this on my home floor," Roberson said.

Walsh, Roberson and Lee combined for 43 of Florida's 53 points. Walsh and Lee each had 11. Lee added 10 rebounds, two assists, two steals and a blocked shot.

"It was just an exciting victory," said Lee, who also removed his shirt in the postgame revelry. "I would have liked for it to not be so close. It would have been easier if we had won by 50 and gone out with 4 minutes to play and gotten everybody in. But any time you get a win against a Top Five team like Kentucky, as great as their tradition is, it just says a lot about our team."

**Missouri 72, No. 7 Kansas 68:** Thomas Gardner matched his career best with 25 points and Linas Kleiza had 15 points and 14 rebounds for the Tigers (15-15, 7-9), who had lost four straight to Kansas.

Wayne Simien had 17 points and eight rebounds for the visit-

ing Jayhawks (22-5, 12-4), who were bumped to the second seed in this week's Big 12 tournament behind co-champion Oklahoma. Kansas' Keith Langford had five points in 3 minutes before injuring an ankle he hurt in practice last week. Langford is the Jayhawks' second-leading scorer at 15.1 points.

**No. 12 Gonzaga 90, San Diego 74:** Adam Morrison had 25 points and a career-high eight assists to lead the Bulldogs (24-4) to the West Coast Conference championship game as they go for their sixth tournament title in seven years.

Floyd North III had 16 points, and Nick Lewis added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Terrors (16-13).

# Duncan misfiring Sonics; Duncan injured in Spurs win

The Associated Press

In a matchup of the NBA's long-attendance leaders, the Phoenix Suns consistently made the shots — and the Seattle SuperSonics just didn't.

Joe Johnson scored 30 points and went 5-for-5 from three-point range to lead Phoenix past Seattle 110-99 on Sunday night.

The Suns entered the game averaging more than nine three-pointers a contest, with the Sonics close behind. Phoenix visitors kept it up, finishing 10-for-17, but Seattle made just three of 27 shots from behind the arc.

"We missed some shots that are ordinarily hit," Seattle guard Antonio Daniels said. "In the fourth quarter, we would have put more of an emphasis on attacking the rim. Sometimes, we bailed them out by just launching it."

While Phoenix has a plethora of options on offense, Seattle depends heavily on the three — and shooting 11 percent didn't cut it against the league's top offense.

Ray Allen scored 27 points, but missed six of his eight three-point attempts. Vladimir Radmanovic missed all of his five.

"Everybody came to play," Allen said. "We just didn't have the rhythm."

Amaré Stoudemire had 22 points for Phoenix, mostly in the paint — and Steve Nash added 12 points and 10 assists to help Phoenix average a 113-105 loss at home last month, when the Sonics hit 12 three-pointers. The victory was the Suns' fifth in six games and improved their road record to a league-best 24-7.

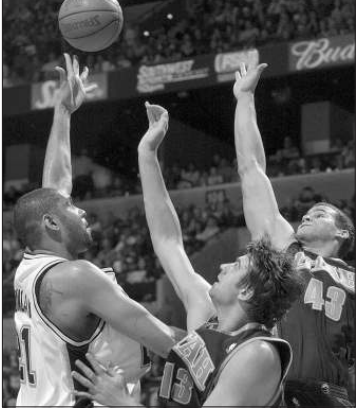
"This was a good game for us," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said. "It follows up winning at Seattle and against Detroit, so we have had three good wins in the last couple of weeks. We are playing at a high level."

Bash Johnson had 26 points and 11 rebounds for Seattle, which lost forward Nick Collison to a broken nose in the second quarter.

He'll be re-evaluated Monday. After handily defeating the Western Conference No. 3 team, Phoenix (46-14) has a chance to take over the league's best record when it hosts San Antonio on Wednesday night. The Spurs (46-13) could be without Tim Duncan, who sprained his right ankle against the Utah Jazz and isn't expected to play Tuesday against the Suns.

"The key is not to be complacent," Nash said. "We're a young team. We have to stay focused to keep this thing going."

**Spurs 101, Jazz 94:** At San Antonio, Duncan missed most of the second half when he came down on the leg of teammate Rasheed Nesterovic.



Spurs forward Tim Duncan shoots over Utah's Mehmet Okur and Kris Humphries (right) before he left Sunday's game with a sprained ankle.

X-rays on Duncan's ankle were negative, and Mamá Giannelli led the Spurs in his absence with 31 points.

Keith McCleod led the Jazz with 18 points.

**Heat 102, Cavaliers 82:** Shaquille O'Neal spent much of his 33rd birthday in foul trouble, but Eddie Jones scored 19 points, Dwyane Wade and Udonis Haslem added 18 apiece and the visiting Heat won their fifth straight.

O'Neal played just 19 minutes in the first three quarters and finished with 0.9 seconds remaining to give Kevin McHale a victory in his first game on the sidelines at Boston.

Antoine Walker had 16 points on 7-for-9 shooting in his first loss since returning to the Celtics.

Kevin Garnett had 21 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists at the Wolves.

**Kings 100, Pistons 85:** Mike Bibby had 19 points and 11 assists to help the Kings win in their first home game without Chris Webber.

Kenny Thomas added 19 points, and Peja Stojakovic and Darus Songaila scored 14 apiece.

Rasheed Wallace had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, who finished a six-game road trip with consecutive losses to Phoenix, Seattle and Sacramento.

**Lakers 103, Pacers 94:** Kobe Bryant scored 37 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to help spoil Reggie Miller's first NBA game in Los Angeles.

Miller, who grew up in nearby Riverside and played at UCLA, finished with 11 points in 38 minutes on 5-for-16 shooting.

Stephen Jackson had 29 points for the Pacers, who have lost their last nine road games against the Lakers.

**Rockets 90, Mavericks 69:** At Houston, Tracy McGrady had 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Rockets past the injury-depleted Mavericks.

McGrady scored 27 of his points after getting six stitches on his chin following a collision in the first quarter.

The Mavericks, who were playing without the injured Dirk Nowitzki and Michael Finley for just the second time this season, set a season low for total points.

**Knicks 115, Warriors 99:** At New York, Stephen Marbury had 26 points and a season-high 16 assists, and the Knicks used a 21-1 run in the fourth quarter to defeat the Warriors.

Tim Thomas scored 25 points as the Knicks shot a season-high 61.8 percent.

Jason Richardson scored 24 points, and Troy Murphy added 17 points for the Warriors.

**Raptors 95, Hornets 84:** At New Orleans, Chris Bosh scored a career-high 33 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, helping the Raptors end a two-game skid.

Lee Nauman led the Hornets with 18 points.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	30	.492	11
Philadelphia	29	30	.492	11
New Jersey	29	30	.492	11
New York	25	34	.424	15 1/2
Orlando	25	34	.424	15 1/2

### Southeast Division

Miami	29	29	.738	—
Washington	29	29	.569	10 1/2
Charlotte	29	29	.569	10 1/2
Orlando	12	45	.211	31 1/2
Florida	12	45	.211	31 1/2

### Central Division

Detroit	32	22	.621	—
Cleveland	31	23	.573	1 1/2
Minnesota	31	23	.573	1 1/2
Indiana	29	25	.538	3 1/2
Chicago	29	25	.538	3 1/2

### Western Conference

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	32	22	.593	—
Houston	31	23	.573	1 1/2
Phoenix	31	23	.573	1 1/2
New Orleans	28	26	.519	3 1/2

### Northwest Division

Seattle	31	23	.573	—
Denver	30	24	.558	1 1/2
Minnesota	30	24	.558	1 1/2
Utah	29	25	.538	3 1/2

### Pacific Division

Phoenix	32	22	.593	—
L.A. Clippers	31	23	.573	1 1/2
L.A. Lakers	31	23	.573	1 1/2
Golden State	28	26	.519	3 1/2

### Sunday's games

Houston 90, Dallas 69	85
Sacramento 90, Detroit 85	85
Minnesota 90, Boston 77	85
San Antonio 101, Utah 94	85
Toronto 95, New Orleans 84	85
Miami 102, Cleveland 82	85
Phoenix 94, Portland 89	85
L.A. Lakers 101, Seattle 99	85

### Monday's games

Philadelphia 94, Chicago 78	86
Milwaukee 84, Orlando 78	86
Portland 89, Memphis 84	86
Memphis 84, L.A. Clippers 78	86

### Tuesday's games

Orlando 84, Golden State 78	87
Washington 84, New York 78	87
Atlanta 84, Milwaukee 78	87
Charlotte 84, Minnesota 78	87
New Jersey 84, San Antonio 78	87
Indiana 84, Utah 78	87
Houston 84, Seattle 78	87
Memphis 84, L.A. Lakers 78	87

### Wednesday's games

Orlando 84, Toronto 78	88
Atlanta 84, Boston 78	88
New York 84, New Orleans 78	88
San Antonio 84, Phoenix 78	88
Chicago 84, Portland 78	88

### Sunday

<b>Rockets 90, Mavericks 69</b>	89
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DALLAS — Joakim Noah 4-12, Van Horn 2-8, Howard 2-8, McGrady 1-12, Wallace 2-8, Stacks 1-6, Howard 2-8, McGrady 1-12, Wallace 2-8, Stacks 1-6, Howard 2-8, McGrady 1-12, Wallace 2-8, Stacks 1-6.

HOUSTON — McGrady 11-22, 7-12, 3-10, Howard 2-8, Wallace 2-8, Stacks 1-6, Howard 2-8, McGrady 11-22, 7-12, 3-10.

HOUSTON — McGrady 11-22, 7-12, 3-10, Howard 2-8, Wallace 2-8, Stacks 1-6, Howard 2-8, McGrady 11-22, 7-12, 3-10.

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### Knicks 115, Warriors 99

Knicks 115, Warriors 99	90
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### New York

New York 115, Warriors 99	91
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### Timberwolves 99, Celtics 97

Timberwolves 99, Celtics 97	92
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### MINNESOTA

Minnesota 99, Celtics 97	93
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### BOSTON

Boston 97, Timberwolves 99	94
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### Utah

Utah 94, San Antonio 101	95
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### Spurs 101, Jazz 94

Spurs 101, Jazz 94	96
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### San Antonio

San Antonio 101, Jazz 94	97
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### Raptors 95, Hornets 84

Raptors 95, Hornets 84	98
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### NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans 84, Raptors 95	99
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### NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans 84, Raptors 95	100
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### NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans 84, Raptors 95	101
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### NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans 84, Raptors 95	102
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### NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans 84, Raptors 95	103
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### NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans 84, Raptors 95	104
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### NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans 84, Raptors 95	105
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### NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans 84, Raptors 95	106
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### NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans 84, Raptors 95	107
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And Roddick reacts after losing a game to Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic during their Davis Cup singles match on Sunday. Ljubicic won 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (11), 6-7 (7), 6-2 to send Croatia into the quarterfinals against Romania.

# Croatia's Ljubicic tops Roddick, U.S.

BY KEN PETERS

The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Even Andre Agassi couldn't lead the U.S. team to Davis Cup success.

The Americans sent out an impressive group against Croatia, with Agassi back after five years to join Andy Roddick and doubles specialists Bob and Mike Bryan.

Ivan Ljubicic proved too much for all of them, almost single-handedly leading his country to a 3-2 opening-round victory Sunday.

The 25-year-old Ljubicic ran his record against the United States to 6-0 with two singles victories to bookend a doubles triumph.

## Davis Cup

He also won three times two years ago when Croatia knocked the Americans out in the first round.

U.S. captain Patrick McEnroe obviously was disappointed with the loss — and very impressed by Ljubicic's performance.

"To play that well, to beat Agassi, the Bryans and Roddick back to back, it's an impressive performance," McEnroe said.

Ljubicic finished off his iron man stint with a victory over Roddick, propelling Croatia into the quarterfinals against Romania.

On a roll that has carried him to four tour finals this year, Ljubicic was proud to win for his country.

"I think all around the world, this is going to be big news because to beat Andre, Bryans and Roddick in three days, I think it's a great effort," he said.

"I was thinking if I could just win one singles, just to keep up the momentum and just keep the confidence up. But I did it all the way, so it is just amazing."

The United States has won the Cup 31 times, but not for a decade. The drought is the Americans' longest in 68 years.

Ljubicic outlasted Roddick 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (11), 6-7 (7), 6-2 in a match that featured a highlight reel's worth of spectacular shots by both players and lasted 3 hours, 58 minutes.

"There's no worse feeling than losing a match in Davis Cup in our sport, especially when your teammates are counting on you," Roddick said. "There are so many people that you're playing for and that you feel like you've let down."

Since Croatia clinched the round with one singles remaining, Bob Bryan played for Agassi and took a 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Roko Kramanic, who replaced Mario Ancic.

Roddick had beaten Ancic in four sets in their opening-day match.

Ljubicic began the round with a straight-set victory over Agassi, then teamed with Ancic to hand Bob Bryan and his twin brother, Mike, their first Davis Cup loss in six matches.

Both Roddick and Ljubicic played extremely well in their match, with Roddick rocketing one serve that hit 152 mph. But Ljubicic was able to punch back some of the powerful first serves, and he pounced on Roddick's 73 second serves to win 41 points.

After winning the fourth-set tiebreaker, Roddick immediately lost his serve to start the fifth set. Ljubicic broke through again in the fifth game to take clear control.

The Croatian, no slouch himself serving, matched Roddick's total of 19 aces.

When Ljubicic finished off Roddick with a searing winner, the Croatian team locked arms and gleefully broke into a dance on the court.

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## SPORTS

## The tides of March

## Two top four teams lose finale by 1 point, others escape in wild finishes

By JIM O'CONNELL  
The Associated Press

The end of Illinois' run at a perfect season turned out to be just one part of a wild Sunday for the top four teams in The Associated Press college basketball poll.

Just hours after Ohio State handed the top-ranked Illini their first loss of the season, No. 3 Kentucky lost by the same one-point margin to Florida.

It took a game-closing 11-0 run for No. 2 North Carolina to beat No. 6 Duke by two points, and then No. 4 Wake Forest needed a buzzer-beater from Chris Paul for a 55-53 victory over North Carolina State.

The top four went 2-2 just days before the conference tournaments get under way.

Illinois (29-1, 15-1 Big Ten) was trying to become the second team in two seasons to get to "Championship Week" without a loss.

Ohio State reserve Matt Sylvest-er hit a three-pointer with 5.1 seconds left to give the Buckeyes the 65-64 lead and the Illini's Roger Powell Jr. wasn't close with a three-point attempt at the buzzer.

"Everyone says a loss will help. We'll find out," Illini's coach Bruce Weber said. "We'll learn from it and move on. This next stretch is the most important of the year and that's what people are going to remember."

Saint Joseph's was 27-0 last season when the top-ranked Hawks lost to Xavier by 20 points in the quarterfinals of the Atlantic 10 tournament. The loss didn't derail their season by any means as they reached the round of eight in the NCAA tournament, losing to Oklahoma State in a thriller one game short of the Final Four.

Stanford also made a run at a perfect season last season, winning its first 26 before losing to Washington in the last game before the Pac-10 tournament. The Cardinal won the conference tournament, then were upset by Ala-

### Sunday's scoreboard

Ohio State	65
No. 1 Illinois	64
No. 2 North Carolina	75
No. 6 Duke	73
Florida	53
No. 3 Kentucky	52
No. 4 Wake Forest	55
North Carolina State	53
Missouri	72
No. 7 Kansas	68

bama in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Xavier's coach in that game against Saint Joe's was Thad Matta. He moved on to Ohio State this season and on Sunday he ended another run at perfection.

"I'd like to be the other team just one time," Matta said, laughing. "I'm living for the day I'm the No. 1 team and someone else is trying to do it to us."

The last team to reach the NCAA tournament without a loss was UNLV in 1991. The Runnin Rebels lost to Duke in the Final Four.

The last team to get undefeated in a season was Indiana in 1976.

Illinois is still the top seed in this week's Big Ten tournament and it's hard to imagine the Illini losing the No. 1 ranking or a No. 1 seed in the NCAA's field of 65.

"I'd rather lose now than three weeks from now," Weber said.

North Carolina freshman Marvin Williams converted a three-point play with 17 seconds left to cap an 11-0 run and give the second-ranked Tar Heels a 75-73 victory over No. 6 Duke.

Sean May had 26 points and 24 rebounds to record his eighth straight double-double for North Carolina (26-3, 14-2), which won its first Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season championship since 1993, the same year of its most recent national title.

Florida ended an eight-game losing streak to Kentucky as An-

Tiger returns to top of golf by outdueling Mickelson at Doral, Page 27



AP photos

Clockwise from top: North Carolina's Sean May (right) shoots over Duke's Shelden Williams during the Tar Heels' victory. North Carolina scored the last 11 points and won the Atlantic Coast Conference regular season title; Florida's Matt Walsh (right) hugs teammate Taurean Green after the Gators beat No. 3 Kentucky for the first time since March 2001; and Ohio State's J.J. Sullinger celebrates the Buckeyes' victory over Illinois Sunday in Columbus, Ohio. It was the top-ranked Illini's first loss of the season.

thony Roberson scored 21 points, including two free throws with 15 seconds remaining.

The Wildcats (23-4, 14-2 Southeastern Conference) had a chance to win it, but Kellenia Azubuike's three-pointer just before the buzzer bounced off the left

side of the rim.

Paul went the length of the court in 4 seconds and hit the winner from about 12 feet for the Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3), who finished second to North Carolina in the ACC.

There is no record of the top

three teams all losing on the same day, although they have all lost in the same week several times.

The last time it happened was in November 2003 when the top four — Connecticut, Duke, Michigan State and Arizona — all went down.

# Croatia's Ljubicic single-handily ousts U.S. from Davis Cup Page 31